Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 10 | WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OAG prosecutes ex-CPA chair Rex Palacios. **PAGE 2**

Some $80,000 raised for Fitial-Inos inauguration. **PAGE 5**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism with the second term of the Fitial administration?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Cadmium Scare

Federal and state watchdogs open a new front in the campaign to keep poisons out of Chinese imports.

BUSINESS...Page 14

Occupation

Yemen's most influential Islamic cleric warns that the U.S.-backed fight vs. al-Waida could lead to "occupation."

WORLD...Page 16

Goodbye Idol

Simon Cowell will leave the hit TV singing contest "American Idol" after this season.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Regents suspend NMC president

Two fact-finding bodies conduct separate probes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents suspended college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez during yesterday's special board meeting amid two separate investigations against the official on issues that were described as "very sensitive" in nature.

Fernandez

The suspension was effective immediately and will last until the results of the two investigations are disclosed to the board.

Board chair Janet Han King told *Saipan Tribune* that both the

See REGENTS on Page

IN BRIEF

- NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is indefinitely suspended, effective immediately.
- OAG and a board committee will probe issues related to student grades, personnel matters.
- Lorraine Cabrera is interim NMC president

Fernandez vows full cooperation in investigations

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Embattled NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez calmly accepted the Board of Regents' decision to suspend her, saying she will fully cooperate with the twin investigations being done at the college.

"I respect the board's decision and I will work very closely with the act-

See FERNANDEZ on Page 4

No telling yet on Interior's stand on alien workers

Workers group urges Babauta to recommend 'green cards'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Months ahead of the federalization law's May 10, 2010 deadline, the U.S. Department of the Interior has yet to decide whether to recommend to the U.S. Congress a permanent immigration status to some 20,000 alien workers in the CNMI, but the United Work-

See NO on Page 4

FREE H1N1 VACCINATION

Adults and children form a long line at the Garapan Fishing Base late yesterday afternoon to avail of free H1N1 vaccines and nasal spray days after the Department of Public Health received another shipment of H1N1 vaccines totaling 7,000 new doses to avert a swine flu outbreak. Inset, Maria Victoria Garcia, a mother of three, reacts as she receives an H1N1 shot from a DPH nurse.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

OAG prosecutes ex-CPA chair Rex Palacios

Defendant allegedly stole $2,888.13 from CPA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed criminal charges against Rex Indalecio Palacios for allegedly stealing $2,888.13 from the Commonwealth Ports Authority when he was still its board chairman.

The OAG charged Palacios with theft by unlawful taking or disposition, theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received, and misconduct in public office.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly contacted Palacios yesterday for his comments, but he did not answer his cell phone.

Assistant attorney general Joseph J. Przyuski filed the charging information in the Superior Court on Dec. 28, 2009.

Palacios, 57, was not arrested as the government did not ask the court to issue an arrest warrant. It, however, filed the information and summoned Palacios to appear in court.

The former CPA chairman appeared in court on Monday, supposedly to be arraigned. He had no lawyer.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered Palacios to hire his own lawyer as he is not eligible for court-appointed counsel. He also ordered Palacios to appear at the next hearing.

Przyuski stated in the information that on or between April 24, 2008, and Oct. 9, 2009, Palacios unlawfully retained $2,888.13 that was advanced to him by the CPA in the form of a check.

The check, Przyuski said, was for travel per diem, ground transportation and tuition advancement for official travel. Palacios, however, failed to complete the official travel, yet he allegedly failed to return the money or check to CPA or the Commonwealth Treasury.

Przyuski said Palacios retained the amount to his own benefit or the benefit of another.

Pursuant to the law, the prosecutor asserted, "Palacios, being an officer or employee of the government at the time of the receipt and retention of the funds, is presumed to know any legal obligation relevant to his criminal liability and to have dealt with the property as his own for failure to pay upon lawful demand."

Palacios

The government lawyer said that, on or between April 24, 2008 and May 12, 2008, being an appointed public official, Palacios "did an illegal act under the color of office and willfully failed to perform the duties of his office as provided by law."

Palacios was the CPA board chairman when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial suspended the board and placed CPA under his direct control by declaring the agency under a state of disaster emergency in May 2008.

GSM POSTPAID

CLEARANCE SALE

MOTOROLA Z6
• 2 Megapixel Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• MP3/ACC/AAC+ Players
• Micro SD Card Slot
NEW ACTIVATION
$69.00*
Reg Price: $389.00

MOTOROLA V191
• Speakerphone
• Up to 500 Phonebook entries
• Up to 500 Hours Battery Stand-By
NEW ACTIVATION
$49.00*
Reg Price: $119.00

NOKIA 6085
• VGA Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• MP3 player
• Micro SD Card Slot
NEW ACTIVATION
$99.00*
Reg Price: $139.00

NOKIA 6111
• 1 Megapixel Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• FM radio; Visual radio
NEW ACTIVATION
$129.00*
Reg Price: $219.00

NOKIA E61
• Wi-Fi
• Bluetooth
• Document viewer (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF)
• MP3 Players
• Micro SD Card Slott
NEW ACTIVATION
$299.00*
Reg Price: $519.00

*New Activations Only with 12-month agreement required. Valid during January 13th - January 30th or while supplies last. Other conditions to apply.

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - 1. Minutes of December 22, 2009 RBOE Meeting
  - 2. Minutes of January 11, 2010 Regular & Inaugural Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Executive Session[2]
- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel Matters
- c. Other matters

IV. Reports
- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
  - i. CIA
  - ii. CIP
  - iii. FPA
  - iv. LIA
  - v. School Reform
  - vi. Ad Hoc
  - vii. Special Education & Early Childhood
- c. Student Representative
- d. Commissioner of Education
  - i. Financial Status Reports (Federal & Local)
  - ii. Personnel Matters
  - iii. Other matters

VI. Old Business
- a. Amendment to Record Retention for job applications and eligibility lists [§§60-30.3-114 and 60-30.3-138 of the NMI Admin. Code, ref: 1306]
- b. NMI History & CCLHS Content Knowledge Tests

V. New Business
- a. Special Education Part B State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report for 2008-2009
- b. Special Education Part C State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report for 2008-2009
- c. Standing Committee Membership Appointments
- d. BOE Position Paper

VII. Miscellaneous Matters
- a. Special Education Hearing Officer Training

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Asia Pacific: EEOC harassment lawsuit is 'frivolous'

Asia Pacific Hotels Inc., operator of the Saipan Grand Hotel, yesterday branded as frivolous a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against the company.

Steven Pixley, lawyer for Asia Pacific Hotels and Tan Holdings Inc., vehemently denied the allegations in the lawsuit and vowed to "vigorously defend this frivolous litigation in a court of law."

"We are disappointed that a United States government agency tasked with the serious responsibility of protecting individuals from workplace harassment would issue such an irresponsible, salacious and factually misleading press release," said Pixley in a statement.

EEOC, through supervisory trial attorney Michael J. Farrell, filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI. The Commission named as defendants the Asia Pacific Hotels Inc., Tan Holdings Inc. and 10 unnamed co-defendants.

EEOC alleged that the defendants allowed the female complainant to be subjected to sexual harassment that was severe enough to create a hostile, abusive work environment. EEOC said that Saipan Grand Hotel's restaurant manager subjected the woman to unwelcome touching of a sexual nature.

The commission asked the court to order the defendants to pay her damages and back pay with interest. The plaintiff also asked the court to issue a permanent injunction barring the defendants and their agents from engaging in any employment practices, including sexual harassment, that discriminates on the basis of sex.

EEOC issued yesterday a press release about the lawsuit to the local media.

In the press release, EEOC regional attorney Anna Park said the commission is seriously concerned about the increase in occurrences of sexual assault and battery against female employees in the workplace.

"In particular, this appears to be a disturbing trend in the jurisdiction of the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, which includes CNMI, and employers must be aware of the potential for such misconduct against women in their workplace and be vigilant in preventing it. All workers—local and nonresident—have the right to work in an environment free of abuse," Park said.

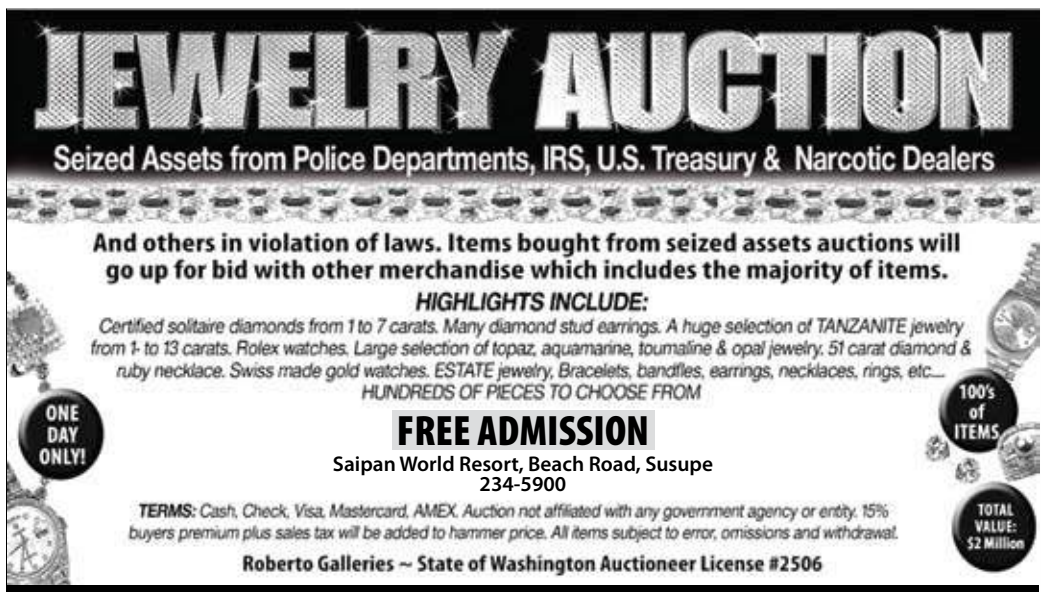
Pixley pointed out that Asia Pacific Hotels, which operates the Saipan Grand Hotel, has longstanding policies prohibiting sexual harassment.

"Consistent with these policies, its employees have received training relating to sexual harassment and related issues. Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. has a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment," Pixley said.

In this case, the lawyer said, the complainant, employed temporarily on Saipan as a singer in a band, engaged in a consensual relationship with the manager.

Pixley said this relationship violated standing policies and that Asia Pacific conducted a comprehensive investigation regarding the facts and circumstances surrounding this matter.

"Following this investigation, the manager was immediately terminated consistent with the aforesaid standing policies," Pixley added. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


JEWELRY AUCTION
Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Narcotic Dealers
And others in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry from 1- to 13 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, Bracelets, bandfles, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...
HUNDREDS OF PIECES TO CHOOSE FROM
ONE DAY ONLY!
100's of ITEMS
FREE ADMISSION
Saipan World Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
234-5900
TERMS: Cash, Check, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX. Auction not affiliated with any government agency or entity. 15% buyers premium plus sales tax will be added to hammer price. All items subject to error, omissions and withdrawal.
TOTAL VALUE: $2 Million
Roberto Galleries ~ State of Washington Auctioneer License #2506
Sunday, January 31st
Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11am

5 GALLON
5 GALLONS
IT'S DOUBLE STAMP DAYS AT SHELL!
For a limited time, when you gas up at Shell, you'll be rewarded with Double Stamps for each gallon of fuel purchased. Double Stamps allow you to redeem your Lucky 7 Passport in half the time, which means more value for you.
Hurry in to Shell today for this limited time offer!
made to move
A WORLD OF CHOICES!
Don't gas up without it!

Higher credit for Chamorro, Carolinian subjects eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System may soon enforce a new credit requirement for Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies if the Board of Education approves a proposal to increase the credit for these subjects from .5 to 1 credit.

This was disclosed by Tanya King, board member from Rota, during the inauguration ceremony held Monday.

King said PSS has created a local test that will serve as Praxis 2 exam for CCHCL and NMI history teachers for them to be classified as highly qualified.

Many teachers have already taken the locally-crafted test, which yielded satisfying results. The new exam will become the standard measure for this group of teachers.

The federal government has set 2011 as the deadline for all CNMI teachers to become highly qualified.

PSS and the Board of Education are both firm on their stand to meet the 2011 deadline even if it means losing some teachers.

REGENTS

From Page 1

Office of the Attorney General and a fact-finding committee formed by the board are separately investigating Fernandez.

Saipan Tribune learned that the OAG's probe is related to issues about the grades of students while the board's investigation focuses on personnel matters and other "issues." The board did not elaborate.

Lorraine Cabrera, the college's Adult Basic Education director who has been with the institution for 15 years, was named as the interim NMC president.

Yesterday's meeting had only one agenda: personnel matter. It was supposed to start at 10am but was delayed for an hour.

Regent Charles Cepeda was unable to attend, reportedly due to a scheduling conflict. Rota regent Elaine Hocog-Orilla participated via video teleconference.

'Defer meeting'

Orilla, the chair of the board's personnel committee, had asked the board to defer the special meeting to Jan. 15 but she was overruled by other members, despite the support of regent Malua Peter.

Orilla told the board that her physical absence was due to the preparations being made for her brother's inauguration on Rota and that she wants to fully participate in the meeting's discussion. The request was defeated by a 4-2 vote.

To give Orilla the chance to join the discussion, regent Andrew Orsini proposed suspending the board's policy that bars absent members from participating in executive sessions through VTC. However, board legal counsel Jesse Borja advised that suspension of the policy would require advance notification of the meeting.

The board then voted to go into executive session at 11:15am, and initially advised attendees that the meeting may take an hour to finish. It took more than three hours.

Last Monday, the board was threatened with an email message that said pushing through with the special meeting would result in the bombing of an NMC classroom before the Chinese New Year. This prompted police to search the campus.

Yesterday morning, about 15 policemen were sent to NMC, with three assigned to stand guard at the board conference room where the special meeting was held.

Two motions

After more than three hours of deliberation, the board finally came out at 2:15pm.

Two concurrent motions were immediately made on the floor by Malua Peter and Janet King: a motion to recess the meeting and a motion to suspend Fernandez.

The suspension proposal was adopted by a 4-2 vote.

Orilla, still in VTC, pointed out that she voted "no" to the motion as she was not aware of the "reasons behind the decision."

Members who voted for Fernandez's suspension included King, vice chair Maria Paz Younis, Andrew Orsini, and Frank Rabauliman.

After the meeting, King said the board has no plans at this time to replace Fernandez. "No, there is no contemplation by the board right now of removing the president," she said.

Fernandez's counsel, Brian Sers San Nicholas, is now working on the legal details of the board's decision.

"We urge the AG office to conduct its investigation as quickly as possible. I don't know how long it would take but we expect maybe results in more than 30 days, but it still up to the AG," King said.

When asked about the atmosphere during the three-hour executive session, King described it as "very lively."

"I think that we expressed all our opinions and finally we made a decision. Our decisions are not always easy but we need to make it," she said, adding that there were a lot of debate during the closed-door discussion.

Depending on the results of the probe, King said the board will then make the decision on the president's future. She asked the cooperation of all employees and students in the ongoing investigations.

FERNANDEZ

From Page 1

ing president to make sure that there will be smooth transition process," she said, adding that she's willing to provide any assistance to the interim president during the suspension period.

Lorraine Cabrera, the college's Adult Basic Education director, was named yesterday as the interim NMC president.

Fernandez said all she wants now is to make sure that NMC will continue to move forward despite the "surprising news." She vows to fully cooperate in the investigations.

When asked if she's confident about having done her job at the college, Fernandez said: "I hope so. I was able to help and get the college reaffirmed. I do have dreams for NMC and I hope that I will have the opportunity to fulfill those dreams."

Fernandez refused to be ruffled by yesterday's turn of events, presenting a smiling face to everyone who came up to her after the meeting.

A number of employees and a few students stayed with Fernandez at the conference room after the meeting was adjourned at 2pm. She was approached by some college deans and directors and Staff Senate president Joyce Taro was seen embracing Fernandez at one point.

Associated Students of NMC president Miles Rodriguez was also among the first to console the president upon hearing the decision.

Fernandez, a former Guam senator, admitted that she came to Saipan for the love of serving the CNMI.

"I love them [the students]. I came here because of my love for the college and the students," she said, adding that despite the challenges and hard work to get the college re-accredited, these were accomplished because everyone thought about the students' welfare.

Besides the construction of a state-of-the-art technology facility and the completion of the facilities master plan, Fernandez said it is also her dream to see specialized accreditation programs for three key areas at NMC—education, business, and nursing.

> *I do have dreams for* NMC *and* I *hope that* I *will have the opportunity to fulfill those dreams.*
> **—NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez**

"I really would like to see NMC be on the map, offering excellent programs and services. I want this college to become the first choice for all the people here and around the world," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

'Split opinion'

ASNMC president Rodriguez said she was shocked and very surprised at the board's decision to suspend the president indefinitely.

"I am shocked! It's something I didn't expect. Hopefully the Board of Regents is making the right decision and hopefully it doesn't affect our accreditation," she said.

NMC reaffirmed its accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges last June. A midterm report was submitted to the commission in October, and the panel is set to come out with a decision this month.

Rodriguez said she will call for a general assembly of students to inform them about the board's decision, pointing out that the student group is allowed to appeal the decision.

Newly appointed dean of Student Services and Programs Leo Pangelinan also expressed frustration with the board's action.

"I was surprised. It's really abrupt…" he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that college employees are left with no idea of what prompted the suspension.

"It's so frustrating because we're left out in the executive session and we're not privy to the sensitive issues that compelled the board to make that decision," he added.

Pangelinan, however, said he will fully cooperate with the investigation to ensure that matters will be worked out at the soonest possible time.

He believes the board's action is not the "right one" for the college now.

Faculty Senate president Larry Lee said he's looking forward to the outcome of the OAG and board investigations and expressed full support to the interim president.

"We will do everything we can to support these investigations," he said.

Lee also described the board's action as a "good decision" because things have not been going well at the college.

"It's time for the board to discover some of the facts of what's going on and the only way to do that and get all the evidence is to have the president out of the college," he added.

NO

From Page 1

ers Movement-NMI reiterated yesterday their request for "green cards" or lawful permanent residence status.

Tony Babauta, the assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs, said yesterday that his office will meet the deadline but said that, as of this time, there's no telling what the recommendation to Congress is going to be.

"I don't know what we're leaning [toward] right now," he told reporters shortly before touring the new $22 million dialysis center in Garapan yesterday afternoon along with Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

He added, "I have a deadline that was put in the law that extended federal immigration here in the Northern Marianas and I'll ensure that the deadline is met."

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday that they have already gathered over 5,000 signatures for the "green card" petition.

Syed said the group has been asking for an appointment with Babauta this week, to personally request him to recommend "green card" for long-term alien workers in the CNMI and other nonresidents.

"We want to tell him to make a recommendation for green card as soon as possible, and not to wait for the deadline. We want to explain to him the situation here in the CNMI, that workers, including those with U.S. citizen children, are losing their jobs now. We want to save workers and families," he said.

Babauta also met with Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, who was able to register at least 19,000 alien workers in what it described as an "accounting" process.

But Babauta didn't disclose the details of the meeting, saying only that they're "something internal right now."

"It's part of gathering information for the report. Pam is an ombudsman but she works under my office. She's doing her job to make sure the deadline is going to be met," said Babauta, who is in the CNMI this week also to attend Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos's inauguration.

The federalization law or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 requires the Interior secretary, in consultation with the Homeland Security secretary and the governor of the CNMI, to recommend to the U.S. Congress, as the secretary deems appropriate, a permanent immigration status to guest workers legally residing in the CNMI, by May 10, 2010.

Fitial and Inos earlier said that, should Interior recommend "green cards" for alien workers, they won't oppose the decision.

Babauta also said that the capture of 24 Chinese immigrants trying to illegally sneak into Guam from the CNMI seems to validate the U.S. Congress' security and immigration concerns about the CNMI.

"I think the Department of Homeland Security and Office of Investigations carried out the job that they're supposed to do; one of the reasons why we extended federal immigration out here in the Northern Marianas plus the fact that there were security issues…. I believe that validated Congress' concern. Congress was the one that extended federal immigration out here," he said.

Dialyis center

Babauta marks his first visit to the CNMI since being appointed and confirmed assistant Interior secretary for insular affairs, a job that he said is "challenging, busy and something that I'm enjoying."

He toured the dialysis building yesterday in light of two inspector general reports critical of the federally funded project and the Department of Public Health's operations of the dialysis unit, which has yet to operate.

As early as June 2007, the U.S. Office of Inspector General, along with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, had already pointed out "serious deficiencies" in the contracting process for the dialysis center that started as a $5 million project, then $17.6 million two years ago, to $22 million to date.

Two years after the release of the report, the CNMI government sued the original architectural and engineering design contractor, the Texas-based Leo A. Daly Co.

The report said the project's magnitude and scope had changed significantly as it evolved from a hemodialysis center to a state-of-the-art facility.

But they said changes in the scope of the project are only partially responsible for the contract modifications and time delays.

"Serious deficiencies in the contracting process, including the failure to adhere to established procurement regulations and the lack of qualified and experienced officials to administer the CIP [capital improvement projects] program, significantly affected construction costs and time frames," the report said.

Before touring the facility yesterday, Babauta said he wants to see "what kind of progress they made." He said measures have put in place to "ensure that the manner and purpose of how federal dollars are spent is being exercised in a correct way."

"And I think the local government, not only here in the CNMI but other areas, are aware of that and have improved their systems of accountability overall," he added.

Babauta was also supposed to go to Tinian yesterday for a tour of the harbor and the Tinian Health Center but bad weather made the trip impossible.

He met with Fitial yesterday, mostly to talk about the Tinian harbor project.

Some $80,000 raised for Fitial-Inos inauguration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inauguration Committee raised approximately $80,000 to cover the expenses associated with the inauguration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Monday.

Included in this amount were check donations of "at least $10,000 each" from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Bridge Capital LLC, Bank of Guam, GPPC Inc., and IT&E, Inauguration Committee co-chair Teresa Kim told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial

Inos

The fundraisers also included the $500-per-plate dinners in Guam and Saipan.

Kim, who is also the interim press secretary and counsel for Inos, said no public funds have so far been tapped to pay for the costs incurred.

When Fitial was first elected to office in 2005, his then Office of the Governor-Elect received $55,000 for its operations during the transition period in accordance with the Executive Transition Act. The inauguration ceremonies at the time were also budgeted at $200,000.

This time, the estimated $80,000 raised by the Fitial-Inos's Inauguration Committee does not yet include the amount raised from the inaugural golf tournament, which kicked off the inaugural activities Saturday morning.

Other activities included the Red Mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday, the private swearing in for Fitial and Inos at the stroke of midnight on Monday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, the public inauguration ceremonies and the invitation-only VIP Ball at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, and the People's Ball at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Co-chairing the Inauguration Committee with Kim is Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration.

Dozens of Micronesian leaders, federal officials and other off-island dignitaries joined on-island dignitaries at Fitial and Inos's festive inauguration.

4 new senators share priorities

Four new senators on Monday shared their priorities to help the CNMI get back on the "road to recovery."

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the inauguration ceremony, Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres said he will continue handling health issues.

"I will continue working with the secretary [of the Department of Public Health] as well as the governor, the administration to address and look at all the recommendations of the 16th Legislature for the oversight hearing," said Torres.

The freshman senator has been named chairman of two committees: the Health and Welfare Committee and Resources, Economic Development and Programs Committee.

Torres said he will work on addressing the hiring of more doctors and providing the hospital with equipment.

Rota Sen. Jovita Taimanao said her priorities include working with the new Senate leadership, working as a team with both upper and lower chambers, and supporting Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos.

"The economy is at a crisis. It takes teamwork to find ways and solutions to the road for recovery," Taimanao said.

Tinian Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz said he will work closely with the rest of the Senate to pass legislations for the betterment of the Commonwealth.

Cruz vowed to make sound financial policies and promote decision-making at the level closest to the people, communities, and senatorial districts.

Rota Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu pledged to find ways to resolve the economic problems of the CNMI.

He also vowed to find ways to lessen the power utility rates and improve government employees' salaries.

"Our businesses are suffering so we need to make legislations that can address their concerns," Ayuyu said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-convict gets two years for gun possession

The federal court imposed yesterday a two-year prison sentence on an ex-convict who sold a gun to a "confidential source" of federal authorities.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson sentenced Damien Pua to 24 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. Munson also required Pua to perform 100 hours of community service.

Pua was allowed to remain free on bail while waiting for a federal correctional facility to be designated.

Pua is awaiting relocation to a mainland federal facility pending designation by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto had recommended a sentence of 37 months in prison and three years of supervised release.

Loren Sutton, counsel for Pua, recommended house arrest, curfew, and probation.

Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives arrested Pua on Sept. 17, 2009. At the time, he was an employee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The defendant and counsel signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

In October 2009, Pua pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

The plea agreement stated that on Feb. 19, 2009, Pua, a convicted felon, was in possession of .38 cal. Smith and Wesson revolver. The defendant sold the gun to a "confidential source" working with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Pua was convicted of murder in the second degree in 1988 and was sentenced to 15 years in prison, court papers said.

ATF special agent Hoang M. Nguyen said this conviction bars the defendant from possessing or selling firearms.

Nguyen said that on Feb. 19, 2009, the confidential source was given $500 to purchase a gun from Pua. The confidential source proceeded to the house of Pua where the revolver was purchased from the defendant. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Sunday Brunch $22.00
FREE play at
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHIMSY
Lunch buffet $15.00
Dinner buffet $20.00
AOI RESTAURANT
FREE swimming pass
VIP & local discount accepted
LET THE PARTY BEGIN!!!
CLUB
TENDERLOIN DISTRICT
AND
DJ "Big Ken" Camacho
Wednesdays Ladies Night with Absolut Vodka
Friday Nights with Miller Beers
Saturday Nights with Heineken
must be 21yrs.old or above to enter
Southern Cross
Miller CHILL
Tuesdays Acoustic Night with Tenderloin District
Fridays & Saturdays-Karaoke Night
Drink specials all night long.....
must be 21yrs.old or above to enter
Another exciting offer from the Grand!
For inquiries please call 234-6601 ext. 301-302
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board Meeting** will be held on **Friday, January 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      - November 3, 2009
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Policy
   3. Personnel
   4. Ad Hoc Reports
4) **Old Business**
5) **New Business**
   a. Magnificent Micronesia Website
   b. Russia Media FAM
   c. Japan Marketing Activities
      i. Triathlon Trip Magazine Advertisement
      ii. Saipan Marathon
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Jerry Tan
Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

Naraja postpones Calvo sentencing—again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja postponed again yesterday the sentencing of convicted sex offender Patrick Mendiola Calvo.

Naraja ordered the CNMI Adult Probation Office to conduct a new pre-sentence investigation report in conjunction with the U.S. Probation Office. He said he will issue a written ruling that will also indicate the new sentencing date.

Calvo

Naraja decided not to push through with the scheduled sentencing after Calvo's lawyer, G. Anthony Long, moved to strike the entire pre-sentence investigation prepared by the CNMI Adult Probation.

Long asserted that under the law, Chief Probation Officer Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan should have recused herself from the pre-sentence investigation report because she has a conflict of interest, being a competitor of Calvo's business.

Long pointed out that Lifoifoi-Aldan concurred with the pre-sentence investigation submitted by probation officer Simram Simram.

Simram testified in court that he has been doing pre-sentence reports for 16 years now and it is part of procedures that he submits his report to Chief Probation Officer Lifoifoi-Aldan.

Simram said that Lifoifoi-Aldan only changed some grammatical errors in his report.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher strongly objected to the motion, which according to him has no merit.

Gallagher said the court can make corrections to the pre-sentence report, but not invalidate the whole thing.

The prosecutor said postponing the sentencing and re-doing the pre-sentence report is "horribly traumatic" for the victim.

When Naraja appeared to postpone again the sentencing, Lifoifoi-Aldan stood up from the gallery and tried to explain. At this juncture, the judge asked her to enter the bar.

The chief probation officer said re-doing the pre-sentence report is unfair to the victim as well as to the defendant.

Naraja reminded Lifoifoi-Aldan that as a chief probation officer she is supposed to be neutral.

Lifoifoi-Aldan clarified that she stated that it is unfair to the victims as well as to the defendant. Gallagher repeated to the court that the chief probation officer indeed mentioned the defendant in her statement.

When Naraja suggested that another probation officer, Shirley Camacho, prepare the new pre-sentence report, Lifoifoi-Aldan pointed out that she is reluctant because Camacho has no training for such duty.

Many relatives of Calvo's former wife, who were in the gallery, were seen murmuring in disbelief against allowing Camacho to do the report.

After Naraja announced his order, he spoke to the gallery, saying, "This is just part of the criminal justice system."

The judge said the issue presented in the motion is first impression in the Commonwealth.

"I understand everybody's traumatic situation," Naraja said.

The sentencing of the 47-year-old Calvo was originally set for Nov. 30, 2009. It was then moved to Monday, Dec. 7, at 10am.

Before Dec. 7, Naraja re-set the sentencing for yesterday, Jan. 12, as the court was awaiting additional information from the Probation Office.

The businessman has been under house arrest while awaiting his sentencing.

Last September, jurors found Calvo guilty of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2008. He was pronounced guilty of sexual assault in the second degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Naraja found Calvo guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace. The judge decided on the misdemeanor charges.

ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA COOK-OFF

OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Eligibility. This contestants who are at least 18 years of age or older and amateurs. Professionals are not eligible to enter. For purposes of this event, "Professionals" are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, including, but not limited to chefs, food editors, home economists, and food preparation editors. Employee of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises and the immediate families of each are not eligible to enter.

2. The ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA Cook-Off will be held at Joeten Susupe on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1pm and will be limited to twenty (20) contestants. Contest registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. To enter the contest, individuals must submit their name, address, daytime phone number and recipe; all information is to be typed on a 8.5"x11" sheet of paper, to the J.C. Tenorio Shopping Center offices, Susupe, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. All contestants will be required to sign the Official Rules upon entering the contest. Each contestant may enter only one recipe for one of the following categories: original appetizer, casserole,stew,stir-fry,salad or sandwich. Each recipe entry must use at least one 7-ounce can from the ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA. Last day/time to submit entry forms and recipe is Wednesday, January 15, 2010 at 5pm.

3. Recipes must not have been published and/or cannot have won prizes or awards in other contests and must not restricted in any way. Submission of the recipes gives J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. the right to modify, edit, adapt, publish and/or use the recipe in any way and in any and all media without limitation and without consideration or payment to the entrant.

4. Each participating contestant will be given a Joeten T-shirt. Contestants are encouraged to wear the T-shirt during each competition.

5. Contestants must bring their dish for judging by 12:45pm on January 16, 2010. Any dishes brought in after 12:45PM will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at 1:15pm. Final heating, cooking and presentation preparation may be done at the contest site. Power outlets will be provided. Contestants must bring all required preparation materials such as warming plates,crock pots, etc. The individual who entered the contest must be present at the judging of their dish. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, originality and overall presentation. The judges will be chosen by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

6. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. The first place winner will received a year supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna (1 case per month ACE DIAMOND TUNA 12/12). The second place winner will receive 6 month supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna. The third place winner will received $50 gift cetificate.

7. All winners will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release that will, among other things, allow the use of winners' name by the sponsors. Failure to comply with this condition will result in forfeiture of prizes. All applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where taxed, restricted or prohibited by law. All taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

8. Interpretation of the contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises. Any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

9. Contest is sponsored by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises.

10. Contest void where prohibited. All prizes will be awarded. Prizes are nonrefundable, nontransferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash. Winners must consent to use of his/her likeness and/or photograph for advertising purposes without additional compensation. Taxes on prizes are responsibility of the winner. All recipes become the property of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., and will not be returned. J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA COOK-OFF Competition!

Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

JOETEN SUSUPE

LIMIT 20 CONTESTANT

WINNERS RECEIVE

1st Place Prize - *1 year supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna*
2nd Place Prize - *6 month supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna*
3rd Place Prize - *$50.00 Joeten Gift Check*

To Enter Print the following:

Your name, address, daytime phone number and ACE of Diamonds Tuna recipe. *On an 8.5x11 sheet and submit to J.C. Tenorio Enterprises at Susupe shopping center. Monday-Friday, 8am.-5pm. For more information please call 234-6446 until Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Categories:

Each contestant may enter only one recipe in one of the following categories:

- ***Original Appetizer***
- ***Casserole***
- ***Stew***
- ***Stir-Fry***
- ***Salad***
- ***Sandwhich***

GOP beats deadline for filing campaign report

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Republican Party beat yesterday's deadline for filing its campaign statement of account in connection with the Nov. 23 gubernatorial runoff election, Public Auditor Michael Pai told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Committee to Elect Heinz S. Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios submitted its campaign report with the Office of the Public Auditor on Monday, the day when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Covenant Party were sworn into office.

Robert Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, separately said yesterday that the Covenant Party and the Committee to Elect Fitial and Inos asked the commission two weeks ago for an extension to file their campaign statement of account.

"The maximum number of days allowed for filing once they ask for an extension is 14 days from Jan. 12," Guerrero said in a phone interview.

Hofschneider

Palacios

The Election Commission is expected to soon release the campaign statement of account submitted by the candidates and the political parties to the public. Such data will show how much each candidate raised and spent during the general and runoff elections. Data will also show who raised and spent the most for their campaign.

The statement of account shows the details of any contribution worth at least $500 received during the election period. Contributions include any monetary or in-kind support issued to a candidate to help his or her political bid.

A candidate or political party will be assessed a penalty of $100 for each calendar day the report is late, while a person who violates the requirements for filing shall, upon conviction, be fined up to $50,000 or imprisoned for up to one year, or both.

Under the law, candidates and their political parties have 50 days from the gubernatorial runoff election to file their campaign statement of account.

The same applied to the general elections wherein candidates had to file their campaign reports by Dec. 28. Only 69 of the 110 candidates who ran in the general elections submitted their campaign statement of account on time. For the runoff race, the deadline was Jan. 12.

The Fitial-Inos ticket beat the Hofschneider-Palacios team by 370 votes in the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election.

Hofschneider-Palacios won the four-way gubernatorial race by eight votes over Fitial-Inos during the general elections. However, because none of the teams got at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast and counted, a runoff race to be conducted.

Woman pleads guilty to 'ice' possession

A woman facing charges of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" entered a guilty plea in federal court yesterday.

Sharee Demapan Diaz pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Diaz's plea and set the sentencing for April 20, 2010, at 9am.

Munson allowed Diaz to remain at liberty on the same terms and conditions as the court had previously set.

Diaz and counsel Michael Dotts signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government, represented by assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto.

The charging information stated that on March 17, 2009, Diaz aided and abetted another in the possession of 0.41 grams of "ice" with intent to distribute it.

According to the plea agreement, the defendant assisted in the distribution of "ice" to a cooperating source working with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Under the plea agreement, the U.S. government will recommend to the court a sentence of six to 12 months in prison.

If the court determines that Diaz is not entitled to a reduction for a mitigating role, the agreed upon sentencing guidelines range is 10 to 16 months in jail.

DEA agents arrested Diaz and her fiancé, Jawn Joyner, last October after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging the two with conspiracy to distribute "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP: DPW10-RFP-005
Submission: February 5, 2010 • Time: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH M. INOS, JR.
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-REV-044
Submission/Opening Date: February 5, 2010 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PRINTING OF THE 2009 ANNUAL FORMS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Division of Revenue and Taxation Office at Dandan Commercial Center. For additional information, please call Frances Ada @ 664-1098 during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ ROBERT A. SCHRACK
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOF-040

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CNMI GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M., AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER, SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S CONFERENCE ROOM NO. 3 LOCATED IN GARAPAN, SAIPAN, FOR OFF-ISLAND VENDORS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL REQUEST TO finance.edp@cnmiarra.net FOR THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO finance.edp@cnmiarra.net NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ ROBERT A. SCHRACK
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DFW-047

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"JANITORIAL AND YARD MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR DIV. OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DEQ-042

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TIME: 10:30A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-RDFW-046

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TIME: 11:00A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR DIV. OF FISH & WILDLIFE - ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 13, 1999

CNMI panel 'won't yield'

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 team, strongly hinted yesterday that the local panel will unlikely agree to Washington's suggestion to discuss transition to federal immigration and minimum wage law as a way of addressing the concerns of the White House. The Northern Marianas and the United States are to resume bilateral talks Tuesday next week to tackle problems arising from differences in handling local labor and immigration policies. Both governments are still working out the final details of the itinerary of Edward B. Cohen, President Bill Clinton's special representative to the consultations, and there was no indication if gaps have been narrowed down in the parameters of discussions.

Mandatory AIDS test hits legal snag

A proposed bill requiring pregnant women in the Northern Marianas to undergo a mandatory AIDS test drew opposition yesterday over potential legal problem to the island government. In a hearing conducted by the House committee on Health, Education and Welfare, House Bill 11-327 may pose constitutional challenge because the provision mandating the test will infringe on individual rights, according to local officials. But committee chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said they would consider the recommendation before the House acts on the measure which aims to prevent the rise in cases of newborn babies infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

Jan. 13, 2000

CUC spent $.5M for 80MW bidding

Amid the unpredictable outcome at today's board meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on the controversial Saipan power plant, the government has already spent more than half-a-million dollars for a project that has yet to benefit the public. Based on available public documents, the much delayed project has incurred the government-owned utility corporation at least $500,000 since planning the procurement of the 80-megawatt plant nearly three years ago. This includes the study conducted by R.W. Beck recommending such size of the plant, which cost taxpayers' money between $200,000 to $300,000.

Garment contribution to public coffers up

The garment manufacturing industry has proven its might, contributing over $39 million in total revenues to the public coffers during the fiscal year 1999, a report from the Office of the Governor showed. The $39 million generated by the government from the garment certification fees during the last fiscal year was 6.68 percent higher than the previous year's $36 million. During the period under review, the Commonwealth generated only about $19.9 million from excise taxes and at least $5.9 million from hotel occupancy tax. Income taxes were the main source of revenue for the government, contributing more than $58 million, while business gross revenue tax replenished public coffers with some $54 million.

Jan. 13, 2003

'Focus on solutions'

Though he is away from local politics and the government now, he remains very much concerned about the current situation and the economic standing of the Commonwealth, which he had had the first chance to govern. Carlos Camacho, the Commonwealth's first elected governor, could only empathize with the incumbent leaders, particularly Gov. Juan N. Babauta, as he leads the CNMI through tough economic times. "I wish Gov. Babauta the best," said Camacho in an interview Friday. "The important thing is what he is doing to rectify the problem. And I hope he puts emphasis on that." Camacho, in a rare public appearance, joined Babauta, three other past CNMI governors, and local leaders in welcoming Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and his wife Joan Friday.

CPA says no to MPLA restrictions

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said it will not agree to the conditions set by the Marianas Public Lands Authority over the proposed transfer of land titles in Puerto Rico. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the CPA, is not amenable in particular to MPLA's proposal that the ports authority remit 20 or 25 percent of its revenues in exchange of the land titles. He said this would be tantamount to diversion of CPA's money. "The 25 percent is really a big problem. That's diverting revenue from what it's supposed to be. It's like deriving revenue from the airport and using it for public works," Salas said. "Our stand is still the same. We want these restrictions removed and we'd like the land conveyed to the CPA with no conditions."

House leaders write Japan PM on military realignment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. House of Representatives leaders on Jan. 7, 2010, sent a letter to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama of Japan expressing their continued support of the Guam International Agreement signed on Feb. 17, 2009 by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and then-Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo was joined on the letter by Rep. Ike Skelton, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee; Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee; Rep. Howard Berman, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Rep. Eni Faleomavaega, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment.

"The letter sent to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama expresses Congress's continued support of the Guam International Agreement and for the strategic value of the realignment of military forces in Japan and the Western Pacific," Bordallo said. "Prime Minister Hatoyama has voiced concerns regarding the proposed plans for the replacement of Futenma Marine Air Base in Okinawa, and we believe that his concerns can be addressed within the existing framework of the Guam International Agreement. We believe that it is important for the U.S. and Japanese governments to reach consensus on the question of the Futenma replacement facility and that the Guam International Agreement be implemented in a timely manner. The FRF issue has the potential to unravel the agreement and to reverse the progress that has been achieved in realigning forces in Japan." ***(PR)***

NMC Spring registration ongoing

Registration will be ongoing for the upcoming Spring 2010 semester at the Northern Marianas College until Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010. Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers can register for courses this week.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English and Math departments and meet with their academic advisors. NMC academic advisors will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in Room D-1.

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of registration, Jan. 16, provided that placement tests have been taken.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the Library or the Curriculum Resource Center before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 12-15:	Spring Regular Registration for ALL students (9am – 6pm)
Jan. 13:	English Placement Test in A-6 (1pm – 4pm)
Jan. 13:	English Placement Test in A-6 (5pm – 8pm)
Jan. 13:	English Placement Test in A-6 (9am – 12pm)
Jan. 14:	English Placement Test in A-6 (5pm – 8pm)
Jan. 14:	Math Placement Test in A-9 (5pm – 7pm)
Jan. 15:	English Placement Test in A-6 (9am – 12pm)
Jan. 16:	Late Registration (9am – 12pm)
Jan. 18:	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
Jan. 19:	First Day of Class
Jan. 19-22:	Add/Drop Week (for 100 percent refund)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS hosts Literacy Night

Marianas High School will be hosting its 2nd Literacy Night today, Jan. 13, 2010, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the MHS Cafeteria. This event, hosted by the Science Department, will focus on literacy strategies for all academic areas. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon this Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held this Friday, Jan. 15, 2010 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm.

This week's vendors feature Lynn's Barbeque, Fong's Bakery, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, and The Library Bookmobile. Puengin Inetnon is still looking for interested vendors to sell food, drinks, produce, fish, clothing, and crafts. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 for applications.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman. ***(PR)***

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call 256-7678 for more information. ***(PR)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.
1. TJ Amusements Inc., Conditional Use App# 2009-2832, Lot #013 D 42 (Garapan Fishing Base)

E. Old Business.
1. Update on Laolao Bay Golftel Conditional Use Application #2008-0302
2. Update on changes to zoning maps 23 & 26 (rezones)
3. Update on the Adult Business Park

F. New Business.
1. Zoning Enforcement Activity Report
2. Proposed measures for nonconforming structures/ uses & nuisance (Presentation; no action)
3. Proposed amendments to Saipan Zoning Law of 2008
   a. Update on proposed amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law (Presentation; no action)

G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair, Zoning Board

THE U.S. ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND

Seeks office space along Beach Road or in Garapan, Saipan for a Recruiting Office.

The Army requires approx. 760 rentable square feet (RSF), to include a private restroom, two (2) reserved parking stalls for Government vehicles 24/7, located on a major thoroughfare, with good potential for exposure and signage.

Lessor/Landlord must be willing to use the U. S. Government lease and terms and perform any required build out on a reimbursable basis in accordance with the Government specifications.

If interested, please reply and include the following information: contact information; your affiliation with the lease space; RSF available; street address and unit number of lease space; and confirmation that the Lessor/Landlords is willing and able to use the U. S. Government Lease and perform the necessary build out.

Please send the requested information to the following by 5:00PM, January 22, 2010, to USACE, Real Estate, Bldg. 230, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440 or FAX (808) 438-3701. You will be contacted upon receipt of your information.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMBAWANG	024E	1/2 Sat	12/31 Thu	12/31 Thu	12/29 Tue	12/26 Sat	1/8 Fri	1/4 Mon	1/3 Sun	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	1/4 Mon	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	1/12 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	003E	1/9 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/7 Thu	1/5 Tue	1/2 Sat	1/15 Fri	1/11 Mon	1/10 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/11 Mon	1/15 Fri	1/17 Sun	1/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	032E	1/16 Sat	1/14 Thu	1/14 Thu	1/12 Tue	1/9 Sat	1/22 Fri	1/18 Mon	1/17 Sun	1/10 Sun	1/10 Sun	1/18 Mon	1/22 Fri	1/24 Sun	1/26 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	025E	1/23 Sat	1/21 Thu	1/21 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/16 Sat	1/29 Fri	1/25 Mon	1/24 Sun	1/17 Sun	1/17 Sun	1/25 Mon	1/29 Fri	1/31 Sun	2/2 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	004E	1/30 Sat	1/28 Thu	1/28 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/23 Sat	2/5 Fri	2/1 Mon	1/31 Sun	1/24 Sun	1/24 Sun	2/1 Mon	2/5 Fri	2/7 Sun	2/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/6 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/4 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/30 Sat	2/12 Fri	2/8 Mon	2/7 Sun	1/31 Sun	1/31 Sun	2/8 Mon	2/12 Fri	2/14 Sun	2/16 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	024E	1/16 Sat	1/17 Sun	1/17 Sun	SKIP	1/20 Wed	1/22 Fri	1/24 Sun	SKIP	1/29 Fri	1/30 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/7 Sun	2/3 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	003E	1/23 Sat	1/24 Sun	1/24 Sun	1/26 Mon	1/27 Wed	1/29 Fri	1/31 Sun	SKIP	2/5 Fri	2/6 Sat	2/11 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/14 Sun	2/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	032E	1/30 Sat	1/31 Sun	1/31 Sun	SKIP	2/3 Wed	2/5 Fri	2/7 Sun	SKIP	2/12 Fri	2/13 Sat	2/18 Thu	3/9 Tue	2/21 Sun	2/17 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	025E	2/6 Sat	2/7 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/9 Mon	2/10 Wed	2/12 Fri	2/14 Sun	SKIP	2/19 Fri	2/20 Sat	2/25 Thu	3/16 Tue	2/28 Sun	2/24 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	004E	2/13 Sat	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	SKIP	2/17 Wed	2/19 Fri	2/21 Sun	SKIP	2/26 Fri	2/27 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/7 Sun	3/3 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/20 Sat	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue	2/24 Wed	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/5 Fri	3/6 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/14 Sun	3/10 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 10

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't write off nation-building in Yemen

The dismal socioeconomic state of Yemen inspires despair in some of those considering what can be done about al-Qaida's base there. It's the same defeatism that infects the discussion of other hosts to terrorism—Afghanistan, Pakistan or Somalia. Experts acknowledge that bad or nonexistent governance, extreme poverty, and unchecked proselytizing and intimidation by Islamic extremists create the conditions under which al-Qaida can train and recruit fighters and prepare attacks against the United States. But there is little that can be done, they argue, other than mounting counterterrorism operations aimed at killing some of the militants. Attacking the root problems, they insist, is a fool's errand: The United States has neither the methods nor the means to turn Yemen or Somalia or Afghanistan into stable states.

President Barack Obama at times seems infected with this attitude. He is clearly serious about fighting what he calls "the war against al-Qaida" and recently ordered a major expansion of both military and civilian operations in Afghanistan. Yet in the same speech in which he announced that strategy, he said that he had rejected "goals that are beyond what can be achieved at a reasonable cost" and said he intended to shift the balance between investments in national security and the domestic economy. "We can't simply afford to ignore the price of these wars," he said. "The nation that I'm most interested in building is our own."

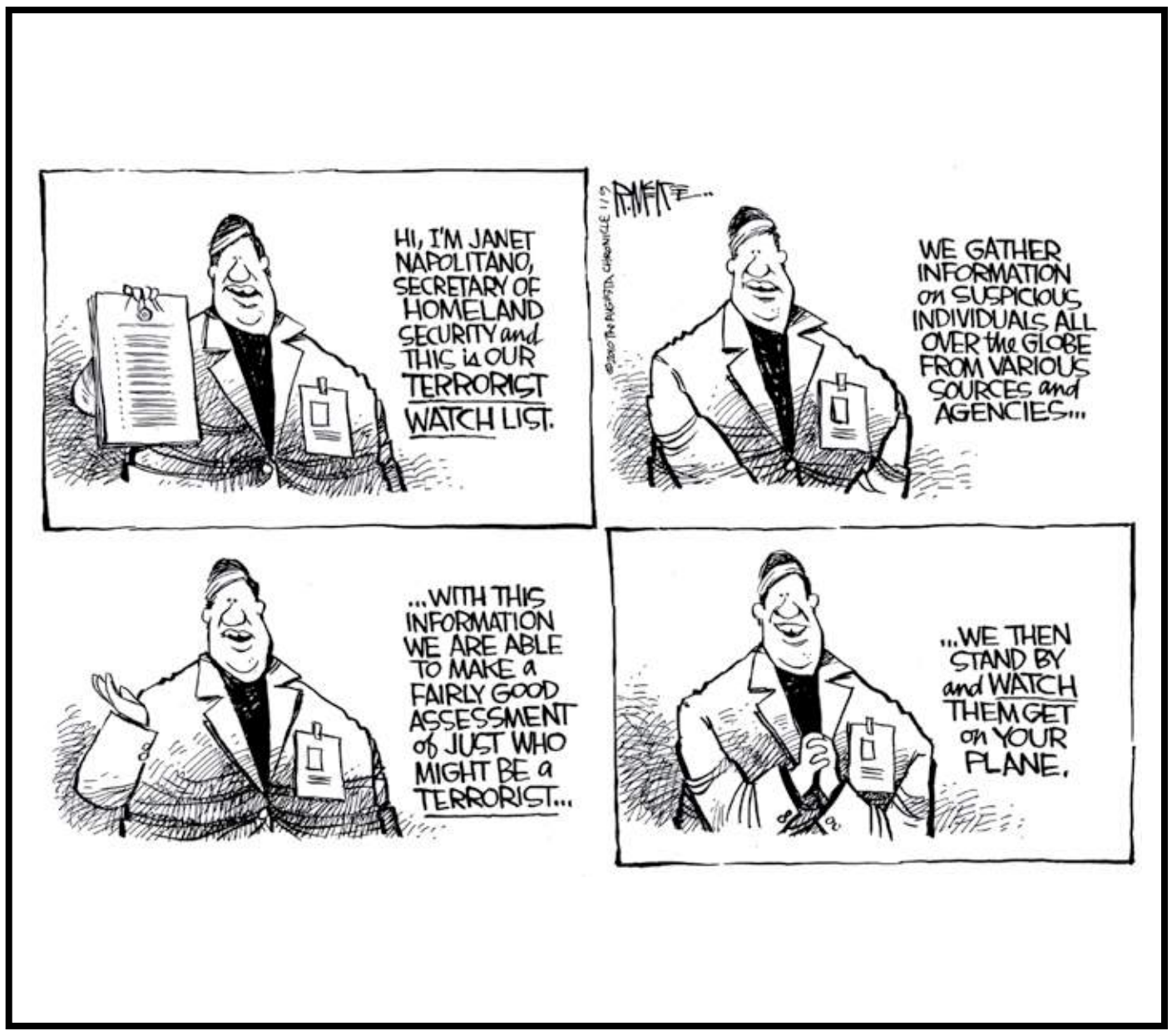
The weariness with eight years of war spending is as understandable as the pessimism about a place such as Yemen, where the population is exploding, resources are running out, internal strife is mounting and what government exists is reluctant to work too closely with Washington. But the notion that the United States and its allies cannot or should not mount a concerted effort to build governance and economic development there or in the other failed or failing states is dangerously misguided. It ignores the fact that counterterrorism operations alone failed to stop al-Qaida in Afghanistan before 2001 and have failed to prevent it from growing steadily stronger in Yemen and Somalia.

It also ignores the long and mostly successful U.S. history of combating national security threats with investments in foreign development and good government. The Marshall Plan after World War II rebuilt European countries from shambles; the Alliance for Progress helped prevent Latin American nations from succumbing to communism. Even now the Obama administration is committed to spending $6.7 billion this year alone to combat AIDS abroad—mostly in countries where al-Qaida is absent and which are in far better shape than Yemen or Somalia. In contrast, development and military aid to Yemen last year was less than $70 million.

As for Obama's concerns about balance and affordability, the United States still spends considerably less on defense, as a percentage of gross national product, than it did during the Cold War—and war spending is due to drop considerably in the next several years as U.S. forces leave Iraq.

There is much that the United States and its Arab and European allies could do in Yemen. Little has been done to prepare the country for a future in which its supplies of both oil and water may disappear. Outside mediation could ease the government's war against Houthi rebels in the north and an increasingly violent conflict with political opponents in the south. Independent media and civil society groups seeking to broaden political freedoms could be supported and shielded. Government forces could be trained not just in counterterrorism operations but in the broader counterinsurgency mission, centered on protecting the population, that has become the model for Iraq and Afghanistan. All this could be costly and take time. But as in Afghanistan, the alternative is to pursue a policy that won't defeat al-Qaida.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post


HI, I'M JANET NAPOLITANO, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY and THIS is OUR TERRORIST WATCH LIST.
WE GATHER INFORMATION on SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUALS ALL OVER the GLOBE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES and AGENCIES...
...WITH THIS INFORMATION WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE a FAIRLY GOOD ASSESSMENT of JUST WHO MIGHT BE a TERRORIST...
...WE THEN STAND BY and WATCH THEM GET on YOUR PLANE.

All the friends that money can buy

By JOEL BRINKLEY
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Joel Brinkley is a former Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign correspondent for The New York Times *and now a professor of journalism at Stanford University. Readers may send him e-mail at: brinkley@foreign-matters.com.*

The nation of Nauru has so much to teach us in the new year: pandemic disease control, weight loss strategies—not to mention diplomatic duplicity.

Nauru is the smallest republic in the world, just eight square miles, and 80 percent of the territory is a forbidding, barren wasteland. Alone in the Pacific Ocean, on the equator northeast of Australia, it's 14,000 residents battle for survival.

They have known the best and worst of life. Not so long ago, Nauru was the wealthiest nation on earth, per capita. Now it's among the poorest. Its people are fat and sick, giving the nation two more superlatives. More people are obese, per capita, than any other nation, and more suffer from diabetes, at least two out of every five people.

And yet Naurans have risen from the ashes—well, in their case, from the bird dung. After trial and error, they have learned how to make a living by trading in diplomatic recognition. Once again, Nauru is the first and only nation on earth where the sale of recognition is the primary source of income in its gross national product.

In late December, Nauru sold diplomatic recognition to two disputed central Asian states, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, territories Russia seized during its war with Georgia in 2008. The price, the Russian newspaper Kommersant reported: $50 million. That sounds like a lot, but really it's just about $3,600 per Nauran—not much for a people used to so much more. And don't forget: Dialyses are expensive! How did Nauru come to this?

Populated by a polyglot collection of Polynesian people, Nauru was a U.N. trustee state until it won independence in 1968. On independence day, the few thousand residents gained full ownership of one of the world's richest national resources. For thousands of years birds had been defecating on Nauru, and deep piles of bird dung lay in the island's center—"Topside," as Naurans call it. Bird guano is rich in phosphorous, and mining it (really, just scraping it up) made the islanders exceedingly wealthy.

Journalists visiting the place back then described a people who spent their days laying about, eating well and drinking lots of beer. Practically their only recreation was driving the island's 12-mile perimeter road. Drunk-driving accidents were frequent. Most of the island's residents, beneficiaries of the bird-dung endowment, did not work.

In the 1990s, the last bit of bird excrement had been scraped up and sold, and Topside was now an ecological wasteland from decades of bird-dung strip mining. Soon the nation's central bank declared bankruptcy. A resourceful people, the Naurans tried housing illegal immigrants for Australia. That didn't work out so well. The prisoners went on a prolonged hunger strike, forcing the Australians to take most of them back.

Unsuccessful as detention center trustees—one of the few occupations an obese people can reasonably pursue—Nauru decided to become an offshore banking center. Bankers, too, pursue their occupation sitting down. Trouble was, Nauru became a favorite spot for drug dealers and terrorists to stash their cash. The Nauru foreign ministry also began selling diplomatic passports to bandits and certain Middle East miscreants. Soon the United States sanctioned Nauru, categorizing it with North Korea, Burma and other misbegotten states.

Time to try something else.

In 2002, China offered Nauru a deal that seemed to show the way toward the island's new occupation. Beijing would pay Nauru $130 million if the island would break relations with Taiwan and establish ties with Beijing instead. That was almost $10,000 per person—enough to pay for dialysis for almost six months. Nauru took the deal. But then in 2005, Taiwan came back with an even better offer. Break off relations with China, come back to Taiwan, and we'll pay you $5 million a year—in perpetuity.

The Chinese money was spent. No more was forthcoming. So Nauru, ignoring the opprobrium, cut off relations with China and restored them with Taiwan. A short time later, creditors repossessed Air Nauru's only airplane for non-payment of funds. The airline already had a bad reputation; government officials had the unfortunate habit of commandeering the plane for their own vacation sojourns, leaving paying passengers stranded. But then Taiwan, Nauru's new friend, bailed Nauru out with an additional $10 million, and Air Nauru got its plane back.

Nauru has now taken in $200 million from the sale of diplomatic recognition. Still, it's hard to see who the next customer might be. What's the next business? Maybe Naurans should start feeding the birds.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Just because I am

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

A voice just declared I'm entitled to love,
just because I am!

No taxes, no charge just like rain from above,
just because I am!

I never knew that I could live without pain,
that others would help me with nothing to gain,
just because I am!

I know now as well it's alright to want more,
that heaven is not the birthright of the poor,
just because I am!

I learned on my own it's ok to have fun,
that happiness is never depleted or done,
and more can be mine still with each rising sun,
just because I am!

No reason is needed, don't have to justify,
The biggest of dreams can be mine if I try,
Just stand up and claim it and boldly state why:
just because I am!

It's already mine, this much I should trust,
It's fair and its right and in life it's a must,
To have all I want and to know that it's just
....because I am!

"Just Because I Am" is a life rhyme about entitlement. It's about feeling deserving of the good things in life for no other reason than that they exist, you exist and everything that exists is a part of you, just as you are a part of everything and, therefore, entitled to share in it.

While doing my own introspection, I realize that I've always been annoyed by people who walked around with a sense of entitlement, and acted as if they were entitled to everything they wanted. Looking back on my own childhood, I recognize that I felt I had to earn almost everything that I was given. As children, our fun was rationed in finite portions, and we would often be reprimanded if our fun and laughter went on for "too long." "That's enough fun, now" was something I often heard growing up. It's no wonder that I used to get embarrassed by people who are too loud and boisterous in public, or by friends and partners who showed too much childlike happiness, and dependence, or at precocious children who constantly seek attention. It's no wonder that a personal pet peeve of mine are those people who are so self-absorbed that they don't notice how their activities, their noise, laughter, eating, breathing, loud music or smoking, affect others. My entire life was pretty much spent walking on eggshells for fear of reprisal and punishment. I sometimes felt guilty just for being, and never felt that I was getting rewarded just for being who I was.

Well, these days, things are different! I remind myself that I am a creative expression of the universe. An abundant universe has expressed itself as me and as a quadrillion other things. All these things and people are all of the same stuff. We are all coming from the same place and there is no order of value on any of us. In other words, none of us is more valuable than another. What exists can be mine to use for I am of it and it is of me. I deserve to share in the expression of abundance of which I am a part! I'll repeat that one: I deserve to share in the expression of abundance of which I am a part!

Now, there is a subtle difference between feeling entitled to have people bow at your feet for no apparent reason, and the entitlement to abundance that I'm referring to. This inspiration is about the abundant wealth of the universe that is ours to be enjoyed, that comes not from mankind but from a higher place. It is about the freedom, the peace and the prosperity that we all should feel entitled to pursue and to accept without feeling guilty, or feeling that someone else will be deprived in the process! Dream it, want it, create it, enjoy it and feel I deserve it.....just because!

And, by the same token, this is a reminder that you should feel free to give your own love, acceptance and admiration unconditionally to others, not as a reward for what they've done, what they've accomplished, or as payment for what they've given you, but simply because they "are."

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: MLK DAY Poster Art Contest! Deadline: Jan 16, 2010. Visit www.blacksonsaipan.com for more details.

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books, including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

America's can't-do list

By ORVILLE SCHELL
Los Angeles Times

Orville Schell is the director of the Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations. He is the former dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley and the author of many books on China. A longer version of this article appears at tomdispatch.com.

Lately, I've been studying the melting of glaciers in the greater Himalayas. Understanding the cascading effects of the slow-motion downsizing of one of the planet's most magnificent landforms has, to put it politely, left me dispirited.

It is impossible to focus on those Himalayan highlands without realizing that something that once seemed immutable and eternal has become vulnerable, even perishable. Those magnificent glaciers are wasting away on an overheated planet, and no one knows what to do about it.

Another tipping point has also been on my mind lately, and it's left me no less melancholy. In this case, the threat is to my own country, the United States. We Americans too seem to have passed a tipping point. Like the glaciers of the high Himalaya, long-familiar aspects of our nation are beginning to seem as if they are, in a sense, melting away.

In the last few months, as I've roamed the world from San Francisco to Copenhagen to Beijing to Dubai, I've taken to keeping a double-entry list of what works and what doesn't, country by country. Unfortunately, it's become largely a list of what works elsewhere but doesn't work here. In places such as China, South Korea, Sweden, Holland, Switzerland and (until recently) the United Arab Emirates, you find people hard at work on the challenges of education, transportation, energy and the environment. In these places, one feels the kind of hopefulness and can-do optimism that used to abound in the United States.

China, a country I've visited more than 100 times since 1975, elicits an especially complicated set of feelings in me. Its Leninist government doesn't always live up to Western ideals on such things as political transparency, the rule of law, human rights and democracy. And yet it has managed to conjure an economic miracle. In China today, you feel an unmistakable sense of energy and optimism in the air that, believe me, is bittersweet for an American pondering why the regenerative powers of his own country have gone missing.

As I've traveled from China's gleaming, efficient airports to our often-chaotic and broken-down versions of the same, or ridden on Europe's high-speed trains that so sharply contrast with our clunky, slowly vanishing passenger rail system, I keep expanding my list of what works here at home and what doesn't.

Over time, the list's entries have fallen into three categories. There are things that are robust and growing, replete with promise, the envy of the world. Then there are those things that are still alive and kicking but are precariously balanced between growth and decline. Finally, there are those things that are irredeemably broken.

Here is the score card as I see it.

ASPECTS OF U.S. LIFE THAT ARE STILL VIGOROUS AND FILLED WITH POTENTIAL:

■ Biotechnology, which is delivering much of the world's most innovative research and ideas.

■ Silicon Valley, which has enormous inventiveness, energy and capital at its disposal.

■ Civil society, which, despite the collapse of the economy, seems to be luring the best and brightest young people, and superbly performs the crucial function of goading government and other institutions.

■ American philanthropy, which is the most evolved, well funded and innovative in the world.

■ The U.S. military, the best-led, -trained and -equipped on the planet, despite being repeatedly thrust into hopeless wars by stupid politicians.

■ The spirit and cohesiveness of smalltown American life.

■ The arts, including our film industry, which remains the globe's sole superpower of entertainment, along with the requisite networks of orchestras, ballet companies, theaters, pop music groups and world-class museums.

ASPECTS OF U.S. LIFE THAT STILL FUNCTION BUT NEED HELP:

■ Higher and secondary school education, in which America boasts some of the globe's preeminent institutions. Increasingly, though, many of the best institutions are private, and jewel-in-the-crown public systems such as California's continue to be hit with devastating budget cuts.

■ Environmental protection, which compares favorably with that in other countries despite being underfunded.

■ The national energy system, which still delivers but is overdependent on oil and coal, and depends on a grid badly in need of upgrading.

ASPECTS OF U.S. LIFE IN NEED OF DRASTIC INTERVENTION:

■ Public elementary education, which in most states is desperately underfunded and fails to deliver on its promise to provide all children with high-quality schooling.

■ The federal government, which is essentially paralyzed by partisanship and incapable of delivering solutions to the country's most pressing problems.

■ State governments, which are largely dysfunctional and nearly insolvent.

■ American infrastructure, including highways, docks, bridges and tunnels, dikes, waterworks and other essential systems we aren't maintaining and upgrading as we should. Airlines and the airports they service, which are almost Third World in equipment and service standards.

■ Passenger rail, which has not one mile of truly high-speed rail.

■ The financial system, whose overpaid executives and underregulated practices ran us off an economic cliff in 2008 and compromised the whole system in the eyes of the world.

■ The electronic media, which, except for public broadcasting and a vital and growing Internet, are an overly commercialized, broken-down mess that have let down the country in terms of keeping us informed.

■ Print media, which from newspaper publishing to book publishing are in crisis.

■ Basic manufacturing, which has fallen so far behind it seems headed for oblivion.

I started keeping these lists because I was searching for things that would banish that dispiriting sense that America is in decline. And yet the can-do list remains unbearably short and the can't-do one grows each time I travel.

American prowess and promise, once seemingly as much a permanent part of the global landscape as glaciers, mountains and oceans, seems to be melting away by the day, just like the great Himalayan ice fields.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

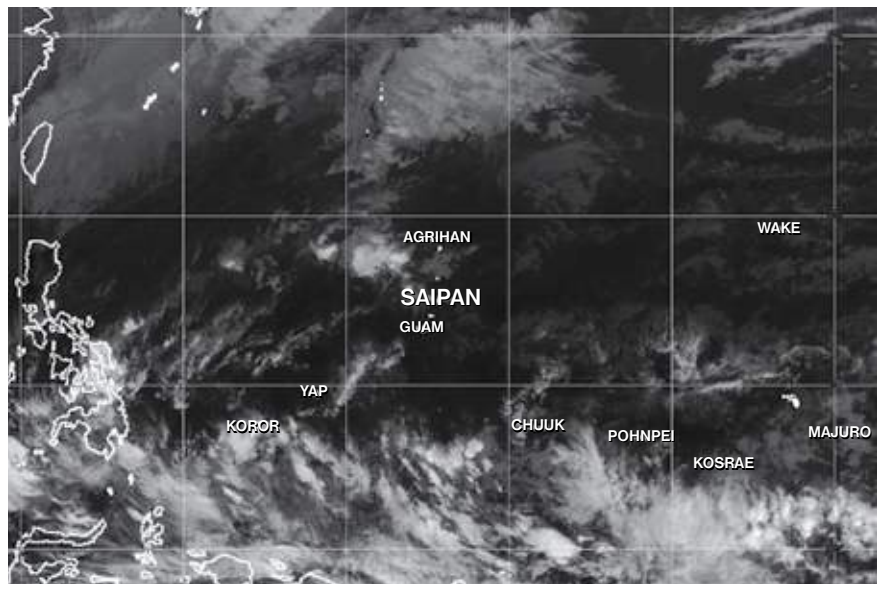
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲69	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲21	▼ 1
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼61
London	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼61
Los Angeles	Showers	▲65	▼48
Manila	Dreary	▲85	▼71
Melbourne	Showers	▲73	▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼54
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲38	▼30
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼28
Paris	Snow	▲34	▼31
Pusan	Flurries	▲34	▼14
Rome	Showers	▲48	▼33
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼36
San Francisco	Rain	▲57	▼43
Seoul	Flurries	▲16	▼ 5
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲46	▼31
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲42	▼27

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N131E past 24N130E with extensive clouds and patchy rain along and up to 500 mile northwest of the front. Low pressure is centered near 25N141E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms up to 300 miles north of a line from 22N138E to 25N146E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northwest of Saipan within 75 miles of a line from 18N141E to 15N144E. A near-equatorial trough extends across 4N130E through a weak circulation south of Palau near 3N135E east-southeastward to end near EQ150E. Low-level convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror and southwest of Chuuk south of a line from 5N130E to 8N136E to 6N148E to EQ155E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from south of Kosrae eastward across Butaritari in an area south of 4N from 159E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
5:32 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:57 AM	4:20 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	5:12 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	7:14 AM	7:42 PM
Sunday	7:52 AM	8:29 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2,3,4,5,6,7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3,6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:0pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4,6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

DCCA childcare program opens for new applicants

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants for its childcare program on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The pre-eligibility assessments will be done beginning Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, until Feb. 19, 2010.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the Childcare and Development Fund (Childcare Program) Office on Capital Hill Building No. 1347 between the hours 9am and 3pm. Applicants on Tinian and Rota may go to their respective DCCA offices.

The first 150 applicants who qualify during the pre-eligibility assessment will be given an application to complete. When the 150 applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications.

Parents and/or guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

■ Three (3) latest check stubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross earnings (both parents)

■ Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)

■ School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credits)

■ Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

Completed applications, along with the required documents, should be forwarded to the Childcare Program Office, Capital Hill no later than Friday, Feb. 26, 2009, at 12pm**.** Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this time and date will not be accepted.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:
DCCA Child Care Program Office
Caller Box 10007
Building no. 1347 Ascension Ct.
Capital Hill, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-2575/76
Fax No. 664-2570

For this program opening, approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is valid only until Sept. 30, 2010. ***(PR)***

REQUIREMENTS

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian
Must show at least 60 work hours bi-weekly
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents
   a. House Rental/ Mortgage
   b. Utility Receipt
   c. Telephone Receipt
   d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification for each parent or guardian
6. Child support statement/stub (if applicable)
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
If in training, must show at least 60 training hours bi-weekly
If in education, must be enrolled in at least 12 credit units
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

OFF-ISLAND VISITORS
Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, left, and Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula have their picture taken at the inaugural session of the 17th House of Representatives on Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Red Cross hosts free lecture on role of ICRC

The American Red Cross, in association with the NMI Council for the Humanities, presents a lecture by Jean-Luc Metzker, head of the Regional Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross, on Jan. 20, 2010, at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center.

This free lecture will last from 6pm to 7:30pm. Metzker will provide a 90-minute presentation on the ICRC and its role in International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Conventions.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross office at 234-3459 or the NMI Council for the Humanities at 235-4785.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavors to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence. ***(PR)***

BoG offers college scholarship opportunity

HAGATNA, Guam—For the seventh consecutive year, the Bank of Guam is offering local high school seniors an opportunity to apply for up to $5,000 in grants through its participation with the 2009 Education Exchange College Grant Program.

Students must mail their completed applications and supporting documents directly to the ACCEL/Exchange Network in New Jersey. The application package must be postmarked not later than March 15, 2010. No copied applications will be accepted.

Totaling $50,000 in grants nationally for 2010, the Education Exchange Program is open to all college-bound, high school seniors graduating this year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and able to provide written acceptance to an accredited four-year college by May 15, 2010. Other information includes an official copy of the high school transcript and two letters of recommendation.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch Lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted.

A total of four $5,000 grants and 30 $1,000 grants will be awarded by July 15, 2010.

Under the ACCEL/Exchange Education Exchange Program, a total of seven Guam students have been selected in the national process for a total of $11,000. ***(BoG)***

NAVFAC Pacific awards first Japan-funded contract

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $50 million maximum, firm-fixed price, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity architect-engineer services contract Jan. 11 to AHL Setiadi Gushiken Joint Venture LLC of Honolulu.

The IDIQ contract is for the preparation of project engineering documentation, preliminary and final plans and specifications, Request for Proposals contract documents, technical reports, construction cost estimates and consultation, and geotechnical investigations and studies for Navy and Marine Corps projects in support of the Defense Policy Review Initiative in the NAVFAC Pacific area of responsibility.

"This is our first DPRI contract awarded using Government of Japan funds," said NAVFAC Pacific Vice Commander Captain Paul Fuligni. "We are very pleased to announce the contract award, and it is one more step by NAVFAC in support of the Joint Guam Program Office and the Marine Corps."

DPRI Government of Japan funded projects (otherwise referred to as Mamizu funds) will involve new construction, repair and alteration of base development facilities. The primary project location for work on this contract is in Guam in support of the relocation of Marines from Okinawa.

Two design task orders for Naval Base Guam projects were issued under this contract: Task Order 0001, which included $1,678,800.00 for a waterfront headquarters building, and Task Order 0002, which included $1,606,362.00 for a fire station.

The term of the contract is not to exceed five years, and has an expected completion date of December 2014. The contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website with 17 proposals received. ***(USN)***

Invitation to Bid ITB10-GOV-035

Security Services for Water Task Force Drill Rig

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Drill Rig on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **December 23, 2009.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **January 11, 2010**, at the CNMI Water **Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

All questions regarding this ITB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, January 8, 2010,** to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked **"ITB10-GOV-035"**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **January 22, 2010.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **January 22, 2010,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 22, 2010,** and must be received no later than **February 4, 2010.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be opened at the Office of Procurement and Supply on **February 4, 2010** if bids are receive from outside the CNMI or on **January 25, 2010** if all bids are from within the CNMI.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,931.60 Down 49.60 (-1.00%)
HONG KONG	22,450.00 Up 38.48 (0.17%)
JAKARTA	2,652.92 Up 20.71 (0.79%)
TOKYO	10,879.14 Up 80.82 (0.75%)
K. LUMPUR	1,292.64 Down 1.87 (-0.14%)
MANILA	3,105.62 Up 18.27 (0.59%)
SINGAPORE	2,931.63 Down 1.90 (-0.06%)
SEOUL	1,698.64 Up 4.52 (0.27%)
BANGKOK	748.33 Up 1.38 (0.18%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,663.99 45.80
NASDAQ	2,312.41 -4.76
S&P	1,146.98 2.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0769
British Pound	0.6214
Canadian Dollar	1.0338
Chinese Renminbi	6.8267
Euro	0.6901
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7548
Indian Rupee	45.4140
Indonesian Rupiah	9,172.5000
Japanese Yen	92.1900
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3416
New Zealand Dollar	1.3481
Philippine Peso	45.6900
Singapore Dollar	1.3907
South Korean Won	1,123.7500
Swiss Franc	1.0180
Taiwan Dollar	31.7750
Thailand Baht	33.0400

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Walmart pulling jewelry cited in AP cadmium report

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal and state watchdogs opened a new front Monday in the campaign to keep poisons out of Chinese imports, launching inquiries into high levels of cadmium in children's jewelry while Walmart pulled many suspect items from its store shelves.

A day after The Associated Press documented the contamination in an investigative report, the top U.S. consumer safety regulator warned Asian manufacturers not to substitute other toxins for lead in children's charm bracelets and pendants.

Regulators and lawmakers reacted swiftly to the AP report, which found that some Chinese manufacturers have been using cadmium, sometimes at extraordinarily high levels. Congress clamped down on lead in those products in 2008, but cadmium is even more harmful.

Melissa Hill, a spokeswoman for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., called the AP findings "troubling." She said the company, which is the world's largest retailer, had a special responsibility "to take swift action, and we are doing so."

Members of Congress voiced anger about the imports. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, said he's reviewing the law that regulates such substances to decide if a fix is needed.

AP

This undated photo provided by chemistry professor Jeff Weidenhamer of Ashland University, shows a Princess and the Frog necklace purchased at Walmart in Mansfield, Ohio in Dec. 2009.

"Parents will be outraged to learn certain jewelry makers overseas thought they could pull a fast one at the expense of our kids' safety," said Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor of Arkansas, who has championed stronger rules for children's products.

Cadmium, which is known to cause cancer, is a soft, whitish metal that occurs naturally in soil. It's perhaps best known as half of rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, but also is used in pigments, electroplating and plastic.

Cadmium is attractive to Chinese manufacturers because it is cheap and easy to work with. But, like lead, it can hinder brain development in the very young, recent research shows.

In taped remarks to be delivered Tuesday in Hong Kong, the chairwoman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urged other countries to ensure that manufacturers do not substitute cadmium, antimony or barium in place of lead in children's products.

"All of us should be committed to keeping hazardous or toxic levels of heavy metals out of ... toys and children's products," Inez Tenenbaum said in a transcript of remarks to an international toy safety conference.

AP source says Obama weighing new levy on banks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is weighing a levy on Washington-rescued banks to help recover shortfalls in a $700 billion bailout fund and to help balance a budget that is looking increasingly grim amid an ongoing economic crisis.

A senior administration official said Monday that Obama would seek modifications to the law that sent billions in bailout money in 2008 and 2009 to a flailing Wall Street that was approaching collapse. The government official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the president's thinking.

The law that created the Troubled Asset Relief Program gives the president until 2014 to seek a way to recoup unrecovered money from financial institutions. An industry official said consideration of a levy now would be premature.

"Current law doesn't trigger this tax proposal for another four years," said Scott Talbott, chief lobbyist for the Financial Services Roundtable, an industry group for some of the largest financial firms.

"We look forward to seeing the details of the complexity of the formula, of who it's applied to and what the assessment is based on and when it is applied," he said.

Government officials have conceded that they don't expect to recoup billions in TARP money used to rescue insurance conglomerate American International Group Inc. and the auto industry. Banks have been repaying their infusions, in part to get out from under compensation limits imposed on the bailout recipients.

Finally, US automakers start to see improvement

DETROIT (AP)—The vital signs are improving for American automakers.

General Motors may reopen some shuttered factories because it can't produce four of its vehicles fast enough to meet demand, and Chrysler is set to hire more engineers and product development workers.

While both companies still depend on government help, the moves are signs of increased confidence that the U.S. auto market bottomed out last year and will improve in 2010, even without a jolt from a Cash for Clunkers-style program.

GM factories making the Chevrolet Equinox, GMC Terrain and Cadillac SRX, all SUV-like crossovers, and the Buick LaCrosse sedan are at or near capacity, GM's North American president, Mark Reuss, told reporters at the Detroit auto show.

The company will try to squeeze more production out of its existing plants first, Reuss said. He mentioned an idled factory in Spring Hill, Tenn., as a possibility for reopening. GM has closed 14 factories in the past two years.

The head of Chrysler, Sergio Marchionne, said his company does not have enough people to revamp its U.S. product line and soon will start hiring, probably beginning with temporary workers.

"We just don't have the manpower," he said. "We are going to increase heads."

Michael Robinet, an auto industry analyst for the CSM Worldwide consulting firm near Detroit, said Chrysler's former owners cut the engineering and design staffs too far for the company to compete.

Pelosi, LaHood laud US investment in autos

DETROIT (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and top Obama administration officials on Monday defended last year's federal bailout of the auto industry, citing optimism that General Motors and Chrysler had made strides only months after exiting bankruptcy.

"What we see here today is a renaissance," Pelosi said. "A renaissance, a phoenix—a rebirth."

Pelosi, D-Calif., and more than a dozen lawmakers traveled to the auto industry's annual showcase. They inspected General Motors' Chevrolet Volt, a plug-in electric vehicle, as well as engine technologies under development by Chrysler LLC and its Italian partner, Fiat Group SpA, and fuel-sipping small cars from Ford Motor Co.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood also toured the show. He said the administration made the right decision to save GM, Chrysler and auto lender GMAC Financial Services with about $80 billion in aid, along with a separate $3 billion Cash for Clunkers program that boosted auto sales during last summer's doldrums.

"This was a good investment of taxpayer dollars in an industry that needed a little bit of an infusion of resources," LaHood said. He noted that GM, which received about $50 billion in aid, had recently repaid the government $1 billion in loans and was showing signs of recovery.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gasoline prices head back toward $3 a gallon

The average price of gasoline is heading back toward $3 per gallon nationwide, sapping strength from the economic recovery as consumers spend roughly half a billion dollars more on energy each day than they did a year ago. For average motorists using about 50 gallons per month of gasoline, rising pump prices have added about $50 a month to their fuel bills. This comes as the worst cold spell in years drives up demand—and prices—for heating oil, natural gas and electricity. The total daily fuel bill is probably $400 million to $550 million more than a year ago, says Tom Kloza of the Oil Price Information Service. ***(AP)***

SEC expands charges against BofA

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators have expanded their charges against Bank of America Corp. over billions in bonuses paid at Merrill Lynch, accusing the bank of failing to disclose mounting losses at Merrill before a shareholder vote approving the combination of the two firms. The Securities and Exchange Commission announced Monday it had asked a federal judge in Manhattan to allow it to file the new civil charges against the biggest U.S. bank. But the SEC also said it wouldn't charge any individual Bank of America executives, directors or attorneys because they are not alleged to have "deliberately concealed" information from the bank's outside attorneys or otherwise acted with intent to mislead. Bank of America said it was glad the regulators had found no basis to charge any individuals or to assert a charge of fraud against the bank. However, it added, "Despite this vindication, we believe the new claims the SEC seeks to bring are without merit and we will oppose this motion."

Venezuela shutters stores in price-hike crackdown

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Soldiers accompanied government inspectors as they temporarily shut down dozens of retail stores in Venezuela on Monday, aiming to prevent hefty price hikes after the country devalued its currency. Inspectors from the consumer protection agency closed 70 stored saying they had improperly raised prices, the state-run Bolivarian News Agency reported. Three large stores of the Exito hypermarket chain, majority owned by France-based Casino Guichard Perrachon SA, where shut down for 24 hours. Authorities began inspecting retailers a day after President Hugo Chavez threatened to temporarily close or take over businesses that raise prices as a result of the devaluation he announced Friday. Chavez said he is determined to curb inflation—even if it means deploying the military to prevent price hikes.

Nation

Cold imperils Florida's fish, fruit and veggies

FROSTPROOF, Fla. (AP)—Here's something you don't often see in this town at the heart of the state's $9 billion citrus industry: a sign at the public library that says, "ICE! On sidewalk. Be careful!"

Growers were scrambling Monday to assess damage and pick as many oranges as possible from thousands of acres of citrus groves. Trucks filled with fruit rumbled through the center of town all day as their drivers rushed them to juice plants.

Freezing temperatures that swept in on an Arctic front from Canada have been plaguing the state for a week, with several areas approaching or breaking records on Monday.

The cold is extremely tough on the state's fruit and vegetable growers, with crops such as citrus trees and sugar cane suffering damage when exposed to temperatures below 28 degrees for more than 4 hours. It was below 28 degrees more than 8 hours overnight in the agriculture-dominated area around Lake Okeechobee.

"Temperatures have been ridiculous cold for South Florida," said Eric Hopkins, vice president of Hundley Farms Inc. in Belle Glade on the lake's southern edge. He estimated his farm would lose about $750,000 in green beans and sweet corn because of the cold.

"We survived a couple of the nights, but this weekend sort of finished us off as far as the sweet corn and green beans go," he added.

Overall crop damage tallies won't be available for days or weeks, agricultural officials said. But the state Department of Agriculture said there has been "significant crop damage" throughout the state, from tropical fish farms near Tampa to the ferns grown in Volusia for filler in Valentine's Day bouquets. Strawberries were also affected.

The state's largest citrus grower's group has been receiving reports of frozen fruit and damage to trees' leaves and branches, but it's not clear yet if those trees have suffered long-term damage. Frozen fruit must be rushed to a processing plant, or the flavor could be ruined.

Complicating efforts to assess the damage is "the sheer number of cold days we had in a row. I can't remember anything like it," said Michael W. Sparks, executive vice president and CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual.

The state's last "impact freeze"—a freeze so severe that it annihilates entire citrus groves around the state, causing tens of millions of dollars in damage—happened in 1989. It was only the fifth since 1835. It will take at least a month to determine whether this year's cold snap will be classified as another, Citrus Mutual spokesman Andrew Meadows said.

U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam, R-Bartow, said damage to other fruits and veggies varied throughout the state. Tropical fish, fern and kumquat farmers were hit especially hard, as were certain tomato, cucumber, eggplant and bean crops in the southern part of the state.

AP

A thick layer of ice covers a ripe strawberry in a field Monday, Jan. 11, 2010 in Plant City, Fla. Another blast of sub-freezing temperatures hit the area overnight.

Reid says he won't dwell on race-based controversy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid sought to slam the book shut Monday on a controversy stemming from remarks about President Barack Obama's race and dialect, and a string of forgiving statements from prominent blacks made clear his leadership post is not in immediate jeopardy.

"I've apologized to the president," he said, and to everyone "within the sound of my voice that I could have used a better choice of words." He spoke in Apex, Nev., his first public comments since the issue flared over the weekend.

"I'll continue to do my work for the African-American community ... I'm not going to dwell on this any more," he added.

While nationally prominent Democrats ranging from Obama to the Rev. Al Sharpton have rallied to his side, the impact of the gaffe in Reid's home state of Nevada is unpredictable. The 70-year-old majority leader is seeking re-election this fall, and recent polls show him trailing potential Republican rivals.

Republicans have called on Reid to step down as majority leader, a move that would undermine his re-election chances in Nevada, where he is running as a powerful senior lawmaker who can deliver for his home state.

As majority leader, Reid has been the point man for the past year in trying to pass Obama's legislative program through the Senate, and there was no public evidence the controversy has eroded his standing. Any change in leadership would be felt most immediately in the drive to win final passage for health care legislation, an area in which he has committed enormous amounts of time, energy and credibility.

AP

A thick layer of ice covers a ripe strawberry in a field Monday, Jan. 11, 2010 in Plant City, Fla. Another blast of sub-freezing temperatures hit the area overnight.

Reid's remarks in his home state were his first in public since the weekend disclosure that he had described Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign as a light-skinned African-American "with no Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one." Those reflections appear in a new book, "Game Change," by Time magazine's Mark Halperin and New York magazine's John Heilemann.

Reid swiftly telephoned his apologies to the president, who accepted them and issued a statement saying, "As far as I am concerned, the book is closed."

Two days later, Reid said he agreed on that last point, and sought to shore up his civil rights credentials. "As a very young man in the state of Nevada I was one of the leaders of the civil rights movement in Nevada, and it had a lot of moving to do," he said.

Balloon boy's dad dashes into jail without a word

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—There was no last second proclamation of innocence or even a statement to the handful of reporters waiting in the freezing cold for the man who pleaded guilty to orchestrating the balloon boy hoax.

Richard Heene arrived at the Larimer County Detention Center on Monday with his wife and co-defendant, Mayumi, in the couple's red minivan with a busted-out rear window. Heene, wearing a dark knit cap, sunglasses and a heavy jacket, ran inside the building carrying a plastic grocery bag.

He ran back to the minivan and grabbed his driver's license before heading back to the jail to begin serving a 90-day sentence for the Oct. 15 event that captivated a television audience for an entire afternoon.

Mayumi Heene, who pleaded guilty to filing a false report and must serve a 20-day jail term once her husband is out, pulled the hood of her sweatshirt over her head and drove away alone.

"He's in general population already," said Larimer County sheriff's spokeswoman Eloise Campanella. "The marching orders are, `Treat him like any other inmate.'"

During a media blitz last week, Richard Heene said he truly believed his 6-year-old son Falcon was inside the metallic balloon that floated away from his backyard. He said he pleaded guilty only to appease authorities and save his wife from being deported to Japan.

Union praises pilots who landed crippled jet in NJ

NEW YORK (AP)—The crew of a plane that landed with a belly flop at Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday "did everything right" as they brought the jetliner down after a landing gear malfunctioned, a pilots union said.

Herb Hunter, spokesman for the United Airlines branch of the Air Line Pilots Association, said the union was happy that the 48 passengers and five employees got off the Airbus A319 "safe and sound." The pilots have not been named.

The frightening episode began Sunday morning as Flight 634 from Chicago to Newark was descending on its runway approach.

Suddenly the plane started rising again and circling the airport, "so we knew something was wrong," said Jim Falk, of Middletown, N.J., who was sitting near the front.

The captain, who sounded composed, announced over the intercom that there was an issue with some of the landing gear on the Airbus A319, passengers said. Then he told them they'd be landing in three minutes—and that they should gird themselves for a crash, Falk said.

When the aircraft landed, part of its belly struck the runway, United spokeswoman Robin Urbanski said, and part of its right wing was damaged.

But the passengers, who cheered and sighed with relief, said the landing seemed controlled, and they praised the skillful pilot.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC amusement park strongman, 104, killed by van

NEW YORK (AP)—A famed strongman who once lifted 3,200 pounds at Coney Island during its heyday and was still bending quarters with his fingers at age 104 died Monday after he was hit by a minivan. Joe Rollino was struck as he crossed Bay Ridge Parkway in Brooklyn, and suffered a broken pelvis, head trauma and broken ribs. He died a few hours later at an area hospital. Police said the driver was going the speed limit and had not been drinking. No criminality is suspected, but the driver was issued a summons for a defective horn. During his storied life, Rollino hobnobbed with Harry Houdini, watched Jack Dempsey knock out Jess Willard and was friendly with Mario Lanza. He even had a bit part in "On the Waterfront."

Some fear Kan. ruling may spur abortion violence

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Before the first juror is selected or witness called, a decision allowing a confessed killer to argue he believes the slaying of one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers was a justified act aimed at saving unborn children has upended what most expected to be an open-and-shut case. Abortion opponents are pleasantly stunned and eager to watch Scott Roeder tell a jury his slaying of Wichita doctor George Tiller was voluntary manslaughter. Tiller's colleagues and abortion rights advocates are outraged and fear the court's actions give a more than tacit approval to further acts of violence. "This judge has basically announced a death sentence for all of us who help women," said Dr. Warren Hern of Boulder, Colo., a longtime friend of Tiller who also performs late-term abortions. "That is the effect of the ruling."

Wife allegedly changes wires on saw to shock hubby

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—Court papers allege that an Olympia woman, angry that her husband left her, tampered with his power tools so that he received a powerful electric shock. Carolyn Paulsen-Riat was booked Friday into the Thurston County Jail for investigation of third-degree assault, domestic violence, and second-degree malicious mischief. A judge released the 33-year-old woman on her own recognizance. The Olympian newspaper reported that court documents said that on Jan. 1, the man was using a 220-volt table saw when he received the shock, knocking him to the ground. Thurston County sheriff's deputies said the man did not need to go to a hospital. In the documents, deputies said the woman told them she had reversed the wires on his power tools because she was angry he was leaving.

Asia

Malaysian Christians stand firm on use of 'Allah'

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Christian leaders in Malaysia refused Tuesday to stop using the word "Allah" for God despite attacks on churches in a religious crisis that has raised concerns about the erosion of minority rights in the Muslim-majority country.

Daniel Raut, a senior leader of the Borneo Evangelical Church—the largest Malay-speaking congregation in the country—said it will not drop the use of the word "Allah," even though Christians fear for their safety.

"Since our forefathers become Christians in the 1920s, we have been using Allah even in our mother tongue," said Raut, who is from the Lumbawang tribe in eastern Sarawak state. "We are quite fearful (for our safety) but we will pray for protection and believe God will intervene in this matter."

Nine churches have been attacked since Friday, with the assailants using firebombs and in one case, paint. The unprecedented attacks have strained ties between Christians and the majority Malay Muslims, denting Malaysia's image as a moderate Muslim-majority nation.

China says missile defense system test was a success

BEIJING (AP)—China announced that its military intercepted a missile in mid-flight Monday in a test of new technology that comes amid heightened tensions over Taiwan and increased willingness by the Asian giant to show off its advanced military capabilities.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday that "ground-based midcourse missile interception technology" was tested within Chinese territory.

"The test has achieved the expected objective," the three-sentence report said. "The test is defensive in nature and is not targeted at any country."

Monday's report follows repeated complaints in recent days by Beijing over the sale by the U.S. of weaponry to Taiwan, including PAC-3 air defense missiles. These sales are driven by threats from China to use force to bring the island under its control, backed up by an estimated 1,300 Chinese ballistic missiles positioned along the Taiwan Strait.

Communist-ruled China split with Taiwan amid civil war in 1949 and continues to regard the self-governing democracy as part of its territory. Beijing has warned of a disruption in ties with Washington if the sale goes ahead, but has not said what specific actions it would take.

In Washington, the U.S. Defense Department said it had no notice before the Chinese test but that the United States does not consider it related to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

"We did not receive prior notification of the launch," Maj. Maureen Schumann, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said. "We detected two geographically separated missile launch events with an exo-atmospheric collision also being observed by space-based sensors. We are requesting information from China regarding the purpose for conducting this interception as well as China's intentions and plans to pursue future types of intercepts."

SKorea, US dismiss NKorea's peace talks proposal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the U.S. rejected North Korea's proposal to start peace talks to formally end the Korean War, with Seoul saying Tuesday that can happen only after the North rejoins disarmament talks and reports progress in denuclearization.

The North said Monday that its return to six-nation negotiations on its nuclear weapons program hinges on building better relations with the United States by starting peace treaty talks. The North also called for the lifting of international sanctions against it.

On Tuesday, South Korea's defense chief said he believes peace treaty talks can take place only after the nuclear talks are resumed and the North takes steps toward disarming its atomic programs.

"I think it's an issue that we can probably move forward with after the six-party talks are reopened and there is progress in North Korea's denuclearization process," Defense Minister Kim Tae-young told reporters.

World

Yemeni radical cleric warns of FOREIGN OCCUPATION

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's most influential Islamic cleric, considered an al-Qaida-linked terrorist by the United States, warned Monday that the U.S.-backed fight against the terror group could lead to "foreign occupation" of the country.

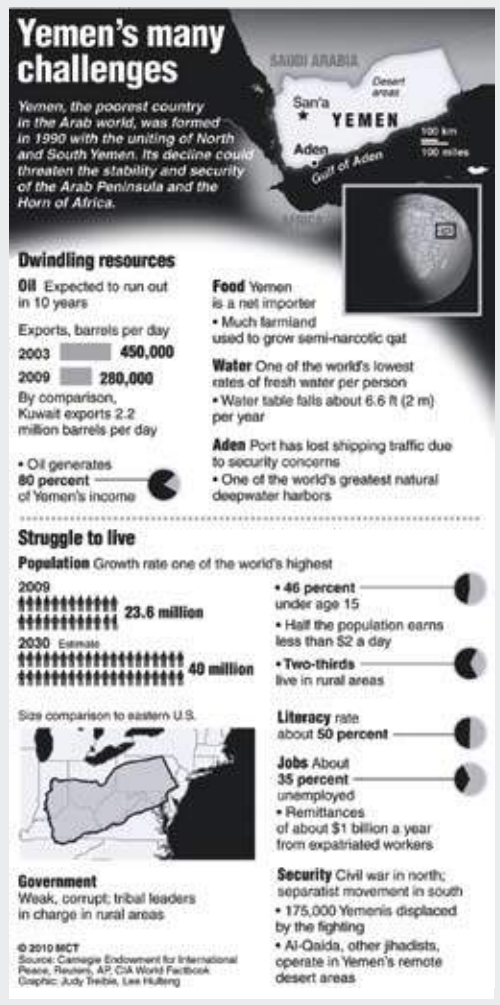
Sheik Abdul-Majid al-Zindani's comments illustrate the pressure Yemen's government is under to limit the U.S. role here even as Washington ramps up counterterrorism aid and training to help combat al-Qaida's offshoot in the country.

Al-Zindani is emblematic of how—unlike in Iraq and Afghanistan, whose governments are bitter enemies of al-Qaida—Yemen's beleaguered regime has built alliances with Islamic extremists to hold onto power. Some have al-Qaida connections, complicating the fight.

Branded a spiritual mentor of Osama bin Laden by the U.S., al-Zindani is highly influential among Yemenis. The United States has labeled him a "global terrorist," alleging in a 2004 U.S. Treasury report that he helped fund and recruit for al-Qaida and that students from his Iman University were involved in past attacks.

Yemen's government has openly allied with al-Zindani in the past and still courts his support. The deputy prime minister last week defended the cleric, saying he is not a member of al-Qaida.

Al-Zindani laughed Monday as he dismissed the U.S. terror accusations against him at a news conference at his home in San'a.


Yemen's many challenges
Yemen, the poorest country in the Arab world, was formed in 1990 with the uniting of North and South Yemen. Its decline could threaten the stability and security of the Arab Peninsula and the Horn of Africa.
SAUDI ARABIA
Desert areas
San'a
YEMEN
Aden
Gulf of Aden
100 km
100 miles
Dwindling resources
Oil Expected to run out in 10 years
Exports, barrels per day
2003 450,000
2009 280,000
By comparison, Kuwait exports 2.2 million barrels per day
• Oil generates 80 percent of Yemen's income
Food Yemen is a net importer
• Much farmland used to grow semi-narcotic qat
Water One of the world's lowest rates of fresh water per person
• Water table falls about 6.6 ft (2 m) per year
Aden Port has lost shipping traffic due to security concerns
• One of the world's greatest natural deepwater harbors
Struggle to live
Population Growth rate one of the world's highest
2009 23.6 million
2030 Estimate 40 million
• 46 percent under age 15
• Half the population earns less than $2 a day
• Two-thirds live in rural areas
Size comparison to eastern U.S.
Literacy rate about 50 percent
Jobs About 35 percent unemployed
• Remittances of about $1 billion a year from expatriated workers
Government
Weak, corrupt; tribal leaders in charge in rural areas
Security Civil war in north; separatist movement in south
• 175,000 Yemenis displaced by the fighting
• Al-Qaida, other jihadists, operate in Yemen's remote desert areas
© 2010 MCT
Source: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Reuters, AP, CIA World Factbook
Graphic: Judy Treible, Lee Hulteng

Mexico opens 2010 with one of its deadliest days

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico opened the new year with what could be its most dubious distinction yet in the 3-year-old battle against drug trafficking—69 murders in one day.

The country resembled a grim, statistical dart board Saturday as law enforcement and media reported the deaths from various regions, including 26 in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, 13 in and around Mexico City and 10 in the northern city of Chihuahua.

More than 6,500 drug-related killings made 2009 the bloodiest year since President Felipe Calderon declared war on the cartels in late 2006 and deployed 45,000 soldiers to fight organized crime, according to death tallies by San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

Two weeks into 2010, gang bloodshed is becoming more grotesque as drug lords ramp up their attempts at intimidation. Last week a victim's face was peeled from his skull and sewn onto a soccer ball.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP police arrest 18 at start of gun ban

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—About 50,000 Philippine policemen began enforcing a five-month ban on carrying guns in public Sunday in hopes of avoiding bloodshed in the buildup to May elections, arresting 18 violators at checkpoints across the country. The Philippines is a lively democracy and elections are often marred by violence and fraud. In the 2007 local and congressional elections, 108 people were killed in election-related violence, including 15 candidates, national police spokesman Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said Sunday.

Afghan police: Policeman killed in suicide attack

KABUL (AP)—Afghan police say a member of the Afghan National Police has been killed and two others wounded in a suicide attack at a police station in south-central Afghanistan. Uruzgan provincial police chief Juma Gul Hamit says a suicide bomber detonated his cache of explosives Monday evening near the gate of a police chief's office in Dihrawud district. Hamit says the attacker tried to enter the office where a meeting was under way. Although wounded by police, the bomber detonated his explosive vest, killing the one policeman and injuring the two others who kept him from going inside.

8-yr-old boys save drowning man at Aussie beach

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—Two 8-year-old boys in a young lifeguards training program rescued a man who was struggling in the ocean off Australia's east coast. Jake Satherley told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio that he and friend Spencer Jeams saw a middle-aged man having trouble Sunday off Northcliffe beach, in Queensland state. "We saw him put his hand up and saying, 'help, help,' so we went over to him and pulled him on our board," Satherley said Monday. The boys are part of the under-14 lifeguard training program at Northcliffe Life Saving Club. Club president David Shields said he'd never seen a rescue like it.

Pakistani couple kills baby in sacrificial ritual

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police have arrested a couple on charges of stabbing their 3-month-old baby to death in a black magic ritual they believed would get them rich. Police officer Hazoor Bukhsh says officers recovered a 3-year-old girl who they feared was also going to be killed. The couple was arrested Monday in a house in the city of Karachi. The body of their baby girl was exhumed from their backyard. Bukhsh says a witch doctor advised them to kill the girl after telling them it would make them rich.

WORLD BRIEFS

NIreland head steps down after wife's teen affair

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—The peace process faces a new challenge as Northern Ireland's leader was forced to step down—at least temporarily—amid outrage following revelations of his wife's affair with a teenager. In an emotional statement Monday, First Minister Peter Robinson said he would step aside for a few weeks to answer questions about his wife's romantic and financial dealings with the 19-year-old for whom she helped raised tens of thousands of pounds (dollars) when she was 58. Iris Robinson, also a lawmaker, said last week that she began the affair less than two years ago while she was suffering a bout of mental illness and comforting someone after a family death. Giving few details, she said she had encouraged friends to give her lover financial support.

Berlusconi back in Rome after attack

ROME (AP)—Premier Silvio Berlusconi returned to a busy political schedule Monday after a monthlong recovery from an attack that broke his nose and two teeth. Berlusconi said he was feeling well as he arrived at his Rome residence, cheered by a group of supporters holding up a "Welcome Back" banner. He met with his coalition allies to set the agenda for the new year, including fiscal and justice reforms. The image-conscious Berlusconi touched his left cheek and pointed out to reporters that there was hardly any scar visible on his face. Berlusconi was hit in Milan on Dec 13, when a man threw the statuette of Milan's cathedral at his face during a rally. The 73-year-old leader was hospitalized for a few days and has largely remained away from the public.

Prehistoric building found in modern Israeli city

JERUSALEM (AP)—Archaeologists have uncovered remains of an 8,000-year-old prehistoric building as well as ancient flint tools in the modern city of Tel Aviv, Israel's Antiquities Authority announced Monday. The building is the earliest structure ever found in Tel Aviv and changes what archaeologists previously believed about the area in ancient times. "This discovery is both important and surprising to researchers of the period," said Ayelet Dayan, the archaeologist who led the excavation. "For the first time we have encountered evidence of a permanent habitation that existed in the Tel Aviv region 8,000 years ago," she said. The three-room structure is believed to be have been built in the Neolithic period—when humans went from a nomadic existence of hunting and gathering to living in permanent settlements and engaging in agriculture.

Campus Life

2 Tinian teachers create dance revolution in class

Tinian Elementary School teachers Jenina Manglona and Jennifer San Nicolas were awarded a Criminal Justice Planning Agency grant that they used to get their students moving—literally!

With this grant money, the two teachers purchased equipment and created a Dance Revolution/Aerobics Club for Tinian youth. Manglona and San Nicolas are teaching students that dancing is a positive way to spend leisure time and that maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle is one way to avoid drug and alcohol use. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ms. Jennifer San Nicolas counts the beat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two students receive instruction while others take a break from their workout.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mrs. Jenina Manglona, center, joins the students in the dance.

A career that could help bridge a gender gap

By MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—While students at an all-girls school in Bethesda, Md., were laboring one day last month to build bridges out of popsicle sticks, their teachers were trying to build bridges for them into the male-dominated field of engineering.

The popsicle-stick bridges shattered under 60 pounds of pressure. Teachers at the Holton-Arms School hope their seemingly unique engineering course will make girls' interest in the field last longer.

"It's about taking risks and getting them over the anxiety of always having to be right all the time," said physics teacher Chris Lee, who designed the course four years ago. The students study such new technologies as artificial limbs; they research bridge disasters, something Lee guarantees will annoy parents when the teens spout dire predictions during the next family road trip; and they build robots.

Lee said that the aim of the course isn't to prepare girls for careers in engineering but simply to get their minds working on physical problem-solving in a way they don't in other subjects. But he's conscious of the imbalance between the sexes in the field he's teaching.

If students do go on to an engineering job, "great," Lee said. "Certainly, the world needs more women engineers."

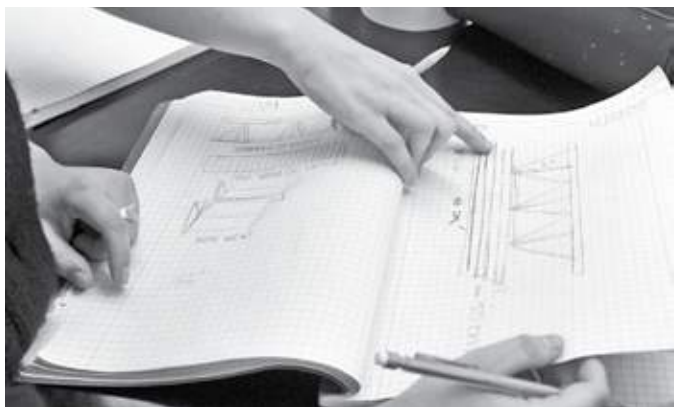
One December afternoon, weeks of careful work were destroyed in an instant when the students' model bridges shattered under the pressure of a testing device, spraying broken popsicle sticks toward 13 watching classmates.

"I think I'm getting a heart attack!" said senior Veronica Leonard, 18, as her group's bridge bulged under pressure from the flat testing plate. A pressure gauge ticked digits toward 20 psi, the minimum required by the assignment. Leonard's bridge, which had a roof over a tunnel, made it to 22 before it split into pieces.

Leonard said she plans to follow in the footsteps of her older sister, who after taking the engineering class at Holton-Arms pursued similar courses at Vanderbilt University.

"It seems like such a good applied science," Leonard said.

Advocates for women in engineering said they were unfamiliar with other regular school programs offering pre-college classes targeted at girls, although some girls' schools, such as National Cathedral School in Washington, have after-school clubs that make similar efforts. They praised the class, saying that it could be a good way to draw more women to the field.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Students in an engineering class at the all-girls Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Md., go over their notes on building bridges. Teachers hope their seemingly unique engineering course will make girls' interest in the field last longer.

"The real challenges for reaching out to young women is to get over the stereotype that this isn't something girls do and then to help them build their confidence," said Betty Shanahan, executive director of the Society of Women Engineers, a national group based in Chicago.

About 17 percent of undergraduate engineering degrees were awarded to women in the 2006-07 school year, the latest for which information is available, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Shanahan said the low numbers of women are holding the field back.

"When you have a diverse team, you bring all kinds of perspectives, approaches, challenges to conventional thinking," she said. "That's particularly valuable when you're in a team that requires creativity and innovation."

Students said they enjoyed the Holton-Arms course in ways they might not at a co-ed school.

"I love the all-girls aspect because you connect with them so well," said sophomore Kelsey Good, 15. "It's such an open environment." She said that she might study environmental engineering in college.

After all the bridges had been destroyed, the students gathered around to watch a slow-motion video of the testing. As individual popsicle sticks gave way, students could see where the bridge failures started.

"Triangles!" Leonard said, explaining the cross-structural supports that had helped other bridges withstand more stress than her own. "We needed more triangles."

The Holton-Arms School engineering class reacts to a stress test to push their bridge structures to the breaking point. Advocates for women in engineering praised the class at the Bethesda, Md., school, saying that it could be a good way to draw more women to the field.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Life & Style

Miep Gies, who helped hide Anne Frank, dies at 100

By ARTHUR MAX
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Miep Gies, the office secretary who defied the Nazi occupiers to hide Anne Frank and her family for two years and saved the teenager's diary, has died, the Anne Frank Museum said Tuesday. She was 100.

Gies' Web site reported that she died Monday after a brief illness. The report was confirmed by museum spokeswoman Maatje Mostar, but she gave no details. The British Broadcasting Corp. said she died in a nursing home after suffering a fall last month.

Gies was the last of the few non-Jews who supplied food, books and good cheer to the secret annex behind the canal warehouse where Anne, her parents, sister and four other Jews hid for 25 months during World War II.

After the apartment was raided by the German police, Gies gathered up Anne's scattered notebooks and papers and locked them in a drawer for her return after the war. The diary, which Anne Frank was given on her 13th birthday, chronicles her life in hiding from June 12, 1942 until August 1, 1944.

Gies refused to read the papers, saying even a teenager's privacy was sacred. Later, she said if she had read them she would have had to burn them because they incriminated the "helpers."

Anne Frank died of typhus at age 15 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in March 1945, just two weeks before the camp was liberated. Gies gave the diary to Anne's father Otto, the only survivor, who published it in 1947.

After the diary was published, Gies tirelessly promoted causes of tolerance. She brushed aside the accolades for helping hide the Frank family as more than she deserved—as if, she said, she had tried to save all the Jews of occupied Holland.

"This is very unfair. So many others have done the same or even far more dangerous work," she wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press days before her 100th birthday last February.

"The Diary of Anne Frank" was the first popular book about the Holocaust, and has been read by millions of children and adults around the world in some 65 languages.

For her courage, Gies was bestowed with the "Righteous Gentile" title by the Israeli Holocaust museum Yad Vashem. She has also been honored by the German Government, Dutch monarchy and educational institutions.

Nevertheless, Gies resisted being made a character study of heroism for the young.

"I don't want to be considered a hero," she said in a 1997 online chat with schoolchildren.

"Imagine young people would grow up with the feeling that you have to be a hero to do your human duty. I am afraid nobody would ever help other people, because who is a hero? I was not. I was just an ordinary housewife and secretary."

Born Hermine Santrouschitz on Feb. 15, 1909 in Vienna, Gies moved to Amsterdam in 1922 to escape food shortages in Austria. She lived with a host family who gave her the nickname Miep.

In 1933, Gies took a job as an office assistant in the spice business of Otto Frank. After refusing to join a Nazi organization in 1941, she avoided deportation to Austria by marrying her Dutch boyfriend, Jan Gies.

As the Nazis ramped up their arrests and deportations of Dutch Jews, Otto Frank asked Gies in July 1942 to help hide his family in the annex above the company's canal-side warehouse on Prinsengracht 263 and to bring them food and supplies.

"I answered, 'Yes, of course.' It seemed perfectly natural to me. I could help these people. They were powerless, they didn't know where to turn," she said years later.

Jan and Miep Gies worked with four other employees in the firm to sustain the Franks and four other Jews sharing the annex. Jan secured extra food ration cards from the underground resistance. Miep cycled around the city, alternating grocers to ward off suspicions from this highly dangerous activity.

In her e-mail to the AP last February, Gies remembered her husband, who died in 1993, as one of Holland's unsung war heroes. "He was a resistance man who said nothing but did a lot. During the war he refused to say anything about his work, only that he might not come back one night. People like him existed in thousands but were never heard," she wrote.

Touched by Anne's precocious intelligence and loneliness, Miep also brought Anne books and newspapers while remembering everybody's birthdays and special days with gifts.

"It seems as if we are never far from Miep's thoughts," Anne wrote.

In her own book, "Anne Frank Remembered," Gies recalled being in the office when the German police, acting on a tip that historians have failed to trace, raided the hide-out in August 1944.

A policeman opened the door to the main office and pointed a revolver at the three employees, telling them to sit quietly. "Bep, we've had it," Gies whispered to Bep Voskuijl.

After the arrests, she went to the police station to offer a bribe for the Franks' release, but it was too late. On Aug. 8, they were sent to Westerbork, a concentration camp in eastern Holland from where they were later packed into cattle cars and deported to Auschwitz. A few months later, Anne and her sister Margot were transported to Bergen-Belsen.

Two of the helpers, Victor Kugler and Johannes Kleiman, were sent to labor camps, but survived the war.

Around 140,000 Jews lived in the Netherlands before the 1940-45 Nazi occupation. Of those, 107,000 were deported to Germany and only 5,200 survived. Some 24,000 Jews went into hiding, of which 8,000 were hunted down or turned in.

After the war, Otto Frank returned to Amsterdam and lived with the Gies family until he remarried in 1952. Miep worked for him as he compiled the diary, then devoted herself to talking about the diary and answering piles of letters with questions from around the world.

After Otto Frank's death in 1980, Gies continued to campaign against Holocaust-deniers and to refute allegations that the diary was a forgery.

She suffered a stroke in 1997 which slightly affected her speech, but she remained generally in good health as she approached her 100th birthday.

Her son Paul Gies said last year she was still receiving "a sizable amount of mail" which she handled with the help of a family friend. She spent her days at the apartment where she lived since 2000 reading two daily newspapers and following television news and talk shows.

Her husband died in 1993. She is survived by her son and three grandchildren.

In this 1998 photo Miep Gies displays a copy of her book "Anne Frank Remembered" at her apartment in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

AP

ON THE NET:

Anne Frank Foundation: www.annefrank.nl.
The Anne Frank Center USA: www.annefrank.com.

Sarah Palin takes Fox News commentator job

AP

In this July 26, 2009 file photo, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin gestures during her resignation speech in Fairbanks, Alaska.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin, former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, will return to her broadcast roots and take her conservative message to Fox News as a regular commentator, the cable channel announced Monday.

"I am thrilled to be joining the great talent and management team at Fox News," Palin said in a statement posted on the network's Web site. "It's wonderful to be part of a place that so values fair and balanced news."

Fox said that according to the multi-year deal, Palin will offer political commentary and analysis on the cable channel, as well as Fox's Web site, radio network and business cable channel.

She also will host occasional episodes of Fox News' "Real American Stories," a series debuting this year that the network said will feature true inspirational stories about Americans who have overcome adversity.

"Governor Palin has captivated everyone on both sides of the political spectrum and we are excited to add her dynamic voice to the FOX News lineup," Bill Shine, executive vice president of programming, said in a statement.

Palin, 45, is hugely popular with conservatives and has more than 1.1 million Facebook followers.

She stepped down as Alaska governor in July, 17 months before the end of her first term in office and less than a year after she vaulted to overnight fame as John McCain's running mate.

The bombshell resignation stunned even supporters and fueled widespread speculation on her next career step—with predictions ranging from seeking the presidency in 2012 to hosting a conservative talk show. She told Barbara Walters in November that a 2012 presidential bid was not on her radar but added she wouldn't rule out playing some kind of role in the next presidential election.

Since resigning, Palin has had colossal success with her best-selling memoir "Going Rogue," released four months after she left office. She finished a nationwide tour in December after hitting some of the political battleground states from the 2008 election and drawing thousands of fans.

Palin majored in journalism with an emphasis on broadcasting at the University of Idaho and worked part-time as a weekend sportscaster in 1988 for KTUU-TV in Anchorage, using her then-maiden name Heath. The station's sports director, John Carpenter, said the young broadcaster left after a few months because of the low pay.

Carpenter said he was sorry to see her go. She was a hard worker who enjoyed the entire process, not just being in front of the cameras, he said.

"She knew sports, she could talk sports, she looked OK on TV," Carpenter said. "She had the aptitude, no question."

Palin's upcoming commentary career had her Facebook fans giddy with excitement Monday.

"Tell 'em like it is girl!!!!!!," one person wrote on a post.

"I look forward to seeing you on Fox....but I hope it doesn't prevent you from running in '12!," another wrote.

‘Spider-Man 4’ delayed; Maguire, Raimi out

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tobey Maguire’s web-slinging days are behind him.

The 34-year-old actor and “Spider-Man” director Sam Raimi will not be returning to the superhero franchise next year. Instead, Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios announced Monday that a new “Spider-Man” film based on a script by James Vanderbilt that focuses on Peter Parker in high school would debut in the summer of 2012 with a new cast and filmmaking team.

The announcement of a reboot comes after reports that “Spider-Man 4” production stalled amid script revisions. The original “Spider-Man 4” release date seemed unlikely last week when Paramount Pictures announced that “Thor,” another big-screen Marvel superhero adaptation, had hammered out the same May 6, 2011, release date as the fourth Spidey installment.

“Working on the ‘Spider-Man’ movies was the experience of a lifetime for me,” Raimi, who directed all three “Spider-Man” films, said in a statement Monday. “While we were looking forward to doing a fourth one together, the studio and Marvel have a unique opportunity to take the franchise in a new direction, and I know they will do a terrific job.”

AP

Actor Tobey Maguire poses for a photo in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010. Maguire has being in all three Spider-Man movies.

Maguire said in an interview last week that there was “great stuff in terms of story and script” for the fourth chapter and the plan was to still release the film in 2011. He also said he had specific ideas about the evolution of the character on the big screen. Maguire’s spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Monday’s announcement.

“Thor” experienced its own upheaval over the weekend. Stuart Townsend departed the adaptation because of creative differences, according to two AP sources close to the production. Townsend, who had been cast as an ally of the Norse god, was replaced by Joshua Dallas.

The three “Spider-Man” films continually snared moviegoers, earning over $1.1 billion combined. After glowing reaction to the first two films, critical response to “Spider-Man 3” was so-so. Raimi said he was undecided about returning to the franchise after the third movie but later said he didn’t like thinking about somebody else making the Peter Parker story.

Sony said it would have more news about the next “Spider-Man” movie in coming weeks.

Return of the campaign book: ‘Game Change’ a hit

AP

The yet-to-be-released book, “Game Change”, about the 2008 presidential campaign is seen at the Associated Press in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010.

NEW YORK (AP)—The campaign book is back on top.

“Game Change,” a sensational account of the 2008 presidential race co-authored by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, was No. 1 on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble’s Web site on Monday, a day before its official release. Publisher HarperCollins has already increased the print run twice, from 75,000 to 135,000, then to 155,000.

Election books once were a publishing standard, starting with Theodore White’s “The Making of the President, 1960” and continuing in the 1970s with such classics as Timothy Crouse’s “The Boys On the Bus.”

But by the 1980s, as campaigns grew longer, and the media larger and faster, interest in the genre faded. Elections now are so compulsively covered that even books about the deadlocked 2000 race, which wasn’t resolved until weeks after the public voted, failed to catch on.

Election books “are not for the majority of readers,” said Sallye Leventhal, a buyer for Barnes & Noble, Inc. “Presidential campaigns are two-plus years in the making ... and average readers aren’t all that interested in the inside details behind campaign strategy.”

But “Game Change” has been in the headlines for days, thanks to such details as Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada describing then-Sen. Barack Obama as a “light-skinned” African-American “with no Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one.”

Reid has since apologized to Obama. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Monday that the president “didn’t take offense” to the comment.

What will Conan O’Brien do?

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—If “Tonight” show host Conan O’Brien decides he doesn’t want to shift back to a post-midnight time slot at NBC, Fox executives have a clear message for him: We love you.

“It’s a very compatible fit for our brand,” said Peter Reilly, Fox’s entertainment president, on Monday. “He’s one of the few guys on the planet who has demonstrated he can do one of these shows every night.”

And to make the point even clearer, Reilly, a former NBC executive, said, “I love Conan personally and professionally.”

NBC’s late-night shuffle, one of the most compelling dramas this television season, hinges on whether O’Brien will accept what is effectively a demotion or go to a network with a spotty record developing a late-night show. NBC confirmed it was ending Jay Leno’s prime-time show to mollify angry affiliates. He would appear at 11:35 p.m., followed by O’Brien under the “Tonight” show banner a half hour later.

O’Brien had waited five years after being promised the “Tonight” show and its time slot after the late local news, moving his family and staff from New York to California. That chance lasted half a year. A spokeswoman for O’Brien did not immediately return a request for comment on Monday, and NBC said it has not heard a decision from the comic.

NBC Universal Television Entertainment Chairman Jeff Gaspin said he had given Leno, O’Brien and Jimmy Fallon (whose show would start at 1:05 a.m.) the weekend to think about the plan.

“I would love the three of them to stay at NBC,” Gaspin said.

O’Reilly said there have been no negotiations with O’Brien or his representatives over a move.

“We’ve been pretty clear about the fact that we like him as a talent and we’ve always been in this business, but that’s as far as it’s gone,” he told reporters at a meeting Monday of the Television Critics Association.

AP

This Nov. 7, 2007 file photo shows Conan O’Brien in New York.

Fox could potentially offer an 11 p.m. time slot, giving O’Brien the jump on both Leno and David Letterman.

That’s where Arsenio Hall thrived—briefly—with a syndicated talk show that aired mostly on Fox stations from 1989 to 1994. Other Fox attempts to establish a late-night beachhead with Joan Rivers and Chevy Chase failed spectacularly. In O’Brien’s favor: He attracts a younger audience, which Fox seeks.

O’Brien’s run at “Tonight” hasn’t been particularly successful. NBC’s ratings have dropped dramatically since the time Leno was the host, and O’Brien has fallen behind CBS’ Letterman. NBC has said it was satisfied because O’Brien was doing fairly well among a youthful audience that is more valuable to advertisers.

Reilly came to O’Brien’s defense, saying he’s been hurt by the ratings problems of Leno and the local news programs that precede the “Tonight” show.

“He’s been playing a little bit with one hand tied behind his back and these things are a long haul,” he said. “He’s been given six months.”

For Fox, O’Brien would offer the advantage of a seasoned performer with his own team intact, as opposed to trying to start a new talk show from scratch with an unproven personality. That’s partly why it’s been many years since Fox has tried the format.

Fox owns many of its stations, and putting O’Brien in at 11 p.m. would be no problem. Fox can contractually force its show upon its affiliates, many of whom are doing well in the ratings with reruns of old sitcoms, but Reilly said he would want to work with the stations to make sure they’re happy.

There would also have to be complicated contractual issues worked out with NBC.

To many, it had seemed a given that Leno would leave NBC for ABC or Fox when his time on “Tonight” ended, but he decided to stay with the company and try the 10 p.m. idea. ABC has indicated a lack of interest in O’Brien.

NBC’s proposal would also shift its new talk show host, Fallon, to an hour best known for insomniacs, and put him a half-hour behind chief competitor Craig Ferguson on CBS. Gaspin tried to play it Sunday as a creative plus.

“It allows him to be incredibly experimental and do what he wants to do,” Gaspin said. “There will be a lot less pressure on him.”

The plan would also likely mark the end of Carson Daly’s late-night show. Gaspin said he expected Daly to stay with NBC in some fashion.

Yale asks dismissal of lawsuit over Peru artifacts

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP)—Yale University asked a court to dismiss a lawsuit by Peru seeking the return of thousands of artifacts from the famed Machu Picchu site, saying the claims were filed years too late.

Peru rejects the argument, saying Yale never owned the Incan artifacts that were taken from the South American nation nearly a century ago.

Yale filed court papers Friday arguing that the Peru’s lawsuit, filed in December 2008, should be dismissed because of a three-year statute of limitations under Connecticut law. Peru argues that under its own law, its claims are not subject to a statute of limitations.

The artifacts were gathered by a Yale scholar, Hiram Bingham III, between 1911 and 1915. Yale says it returned dozens of boxes of artifacts in 1921 and that Peru knew it would retain other artifacts.

“In the twenty-first century, long after everyone with any personal memory of the expeditions had died, Peru claimed that Yale had not returned enough of the artifacts,” Yale’s attorneys wrote.

But Peru says objects of “immense cultural and historical importance” were never returned and says the trove included human remains, objects in bronze and gold, utensils, ceramics and art objects. Yale describes the artifacts as “primarily fragments of ceramic, metal and bone.”

In 2007, the two sides had agreed to give Peru legal title to the pieces, which were to travel in a joint exhibit and then return to a museum and research center in the ancient Incan capital of Cuzco. Yale would have funded the exhibit and partially funded the museum.

AP

This September 2007 photo released by Yale University shows a classic Cusco-style Inca jar, photographed in New Haven, Conn.

The university said it had promised to return all “museum quality objects” along with a “significant portion of the research materials.” But Peru backed out of the deal because of a dispute over how many artifacts were to be returned.

The Peru claim cites century-old government documents granting Bingham permission to remove the artifacts, but retaining ownership and reserving the right to request their return. It argues that Yale knowingly violated U.N. cultural property agreements by refusing to return them.

Bingham is commonly credited with rediscovering Machu Picchu centuries after the Incan empire abandoned it during the Spanish conquest. The spectacular ruins, perched on an Andean mountaintop, are Peru’s top tourist destination.

In recent years, versions suggesting that other foreign and local explorers beat Bingham to the site have gained currency among Peruvian historians.

Cowell says he's leaving 'Idol' for 'X Factor'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Simon Cowell, the acerbic Brit who has helped give "American Idol" some of its sharpest—and nastiest—moments, will leave the hit TV singing contest after this season.

The cantankerous judge said Monday that "The X Factor," a talent show he created and which is popular in Britain, will join Fox's schedule next year. Cowell will be a judge on "The X Factor" and its executive producer.

Cowell's decision is the biggest threat yet to what has consistently been the country's top-rated TV program and a true cultural force. This season, original host Paula Abdul has been replaced by Ellen DeGeneres.

But Cowell, with his caustic commentary, has long been seen as the big star of "Idol."

He said it would have been difficult for him to do both shows. While he makes a reported $36 million a year to be on "American Idol," he owns "The X Factor" and could make much more if the show takes off.

Cowell and top Fox executives made the announcement to reporters in Pasadena at a meeting of the Television Critics Association; they said they had reached an agreement only a few hours before.

"I was offered a lot of money to stay on," Cowell said. "But that wasn't the reason behind it. I wanted to do something different. I wanted a new challenge."

But an even greater challenge is posed for Idol producers. Without the show's biggest attraction and most critical judge, will "American Idol" lose steam and plunge even more in ratings? At least one analyst, Shari Anne Brill of Carat USA, said the "Idol" audience probably will decline next season.

"I think it's that brand of sarcasm combined with professional know-how that makes Simon the audience magnet that he is," she said. "I really believe the show revolves around him. He's the linchpin of the show's success. He has tremendous influence on how the audience votes. He's interesting to listen to. He's brutally honest."

That said, even without Simon, she predicts the show "will still be a formidable player on Fox's schedule."

Kevin Reilly, Fox entertainment president, said Cowell's departure from "Idol" isn't necessarily a win for the network's competitors.

"I think it would be premature to be popping corks. Maybe they can say this gives us a little bit of wiggle room, but that's a big maybe. On the other hand, we're not losing Simon Cowell, we're potentially gaining another big headache for them in the fall," Reilly said.

Peter Rice, chairman of entertainment for Fox, added a dramatic touch to the news conference by asking Cowell to sign his new contract. Cowell's deal with "American Idol," which returns for its ninth year Tuesday, will end with the season.

Cowell said launching a show that doesn't put an age limit on contestants—and allows groups along with individual singers—makes it very different from "American Idol." The top age for "Idol" singers is 28.

Susan Boyle, 48, who was discovered on "Britain's Got Talent," is an example of why age should be irrelevant, said Cowell, a judge on the British show he created and executive producer of "America's Got Talent" on NBC. Boyle became an unlikely sensation and released one of the year's top-selling CDs.

Rice wouldn't speculate on possible replacements for Cowell on "Idol."

"We have to take our time on that," he said. "We have to make sure the chemistry of the judges is as good as it can be."

Cowell said there are many who want the job. But while everybody is talking about the judges, he added, "Fundamentally, the most important reason we do this is to find talent."

Asked about bringing in Abdul as a judge on "X Factor," Cowell replied: "I adore Paula. Whatever happens, I will be working with her in some capacity, because I miss her." But Victoria Beckham, a guest judge this season on "Idol," won't be joining his new show, Cowell said without explanation.

Cowell apparently carefully chose his time to resign, saying he didn't want to leave "American Idol" at a time when it was fading in the ratings.

"You want to leave on a high," he said. "I'm very proud of what the show has achieved."

"American Idol," which is entering its ninth season this week, has been the country's most popular television program for the past five years and has launched such stars as Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and Chris Daughtry.

Yet viewership for "American Idol" has been shrinking since its 2005 peak when it averaged more than 30 million weekly viewers, according to research chief Brad Adgate of Horizon Media; last year's weekly audience averaged just under 25 million. The median age of viewers has shot up, from nearly 32 years old in the first season to about 44 last year.

Rice and Cowell said "Idol" and "The X Factor" would complement each other, not detract.

Airing the network's talent shows throughout the season—"The X Factor" in the fall, "American Idol" from January through May and "So You Think You Can Dance" in the summer—will be a "source of strength" for Fox's schedule, Rice said.

AP

"American Idol" returns for its much anticipated ninth season with a two-night season premiere airing Tuesday, January 12 (8:00-10:00 PM ET/PT) and Wednesday, Jan. 13 (8:00-9:15 PM ET/PT) on FOX. Pictured from left: Randy Jackson, Ellen Degeneres, Simon Cowell, Ryan Seacrest and Kara DioGuardi.

'Avatar,' 'Trek,' 'Hangover' earn WGA award noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The sci-fi tales "Avatar" and "Star Trek," the comedy "The Hangover" and the recession-era story "Up in the Air" were among nominees announced Monday for best screenplay from the Writers Guild of America.

Writer-director James Cameron's "Avatar" and "The Hangover," written by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, were nominated for original screenplay.

They are up against Mark Boal for the Iraq War saga "The Hurt Locker," Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber for the romance "(500) Days of Summer," and Joel and Ethan Coen for their 1960s comic drama "A Serious Man."

"Star Trek" collaborators Robert Orci and Alex Kurtzman are competing for adapted screenplay against "Up in the Air" writer-director Jason Reitman and co-writer Sheldon Turner.

Also nominated are Scott Cooper for the country music tale "Crazy Heart," Nora Ephron for her Julia Child story "Julie & Julia," and Geoffrey Fletcher for the Harlem drama "Precious: Based on the Novel `Push' By Sapphire."

The guild honors potentially give a boost for the films' prospects at the Academy Awards, where screenplay nominations are chosen by the writers branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Oscar nominations come out Feb. 2.

Among documentary nominees were Michael Moore for his recession study "Capitalism: A Love Story," and Chris Rock and co-writers Jeff Stilson, Lance Crouther and Chuck Sklar for "Good Hair," a look at black-hair culture.

Other documentary nominees were Richard Trank for "Against the Tide"; Mark Monroe for "The Cove"; Robert Stone for "Earth Days"; and Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman for "Soundtrack for a Revolution."

The guild presents its awards Feb. 20 in simultaneous ceremonies in Los Angeles and New York City.

CA appeals court overturns award in Jackson taping

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An appellate court on Monday overturned a $20 million award against a defunct charter jet company for secretly videotaping Michael Jackson and his attorneys during a 2003 flight.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled the amount was excessive, and XtraJet and its owner Jeffrey Borer shouldn't have to pay it to attorneys Mark Geragos and Pat Harris.

"The amount awarded to the plaintiffs was so great that it shocks the conscience," the panel wrote in its ruling.

The case was sent back to the trial judge who last March found in favor of the two lawyers.

The panel said a new trial could occur on damages alone unless Geragos and Harris would share a reduced award of $750,000.

Brian Kabateck, an attorney representing Geragos, said he was leaning heavily toward a new trial.

"The judges acknowledge the behavior here was reprehensible," Kabateck said.

Borer and an associate pleaded guilty to conspiracy two years ago for videotaping Jackson and his lawyers as they flew to the pop star's surrender on molestation charges. A jury later acquitted Jackson of 14 charges in the case.

Superior Court Judge Soussan Bruguera ordered XtraJet and Borer to pay the amount for invading the privacy of Geragos and Harris in order to sell the video of Jackson to the media.

The appellate court noted in its ruling that Geragos and Harris weren't severely affected by the contents of the tape because it was never publicly released and didn't contain any audio that would violate attorney-client privilege.

XtraJet attorney Lloyd Kirschbaum was pleased with the ruling.

"It's outstanding," he said. "You can't be damaged by a tape no one has seen."

Geragos, Harris and Jackson filed the invasion-of-privacy suit against Borer and XtraJet in November 2003. Jackson dropped out as a plaintiff in April 2005.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson eyes return to action

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is ready to be back in action. The former pro wrestler says he's looking forward to returning to more physical roles after filming four family comedies. That includes his latest, "Tooth Fairy," in which he wears tights and a pink tutu. Johnson says this year he'll film "Faster," an action flick directed by George Tillman and co-starring Billy Bob Thornton and Maggie Grace. Johnson spoke Monday while in Mexico City to promote "Tooth Fairy." He said it was unsettling to meet co-star and renowned British actress Julie Andrews for the first time while wearing his tooth fairy getup. Says Johnson: "She is a woman that you want to meet in a suit."

Michael Buble engaged to actress Luisana Lopilato

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Buble's latest song may be titled "Haven't Met You Yet," but he apparently has found the one. The singer's publicist, Liz Rosenberg, confirmed that the 34-year-old Canadian crooner proposed to girlfriend-actresss Luisana Lopilato in November. The 22-year-old Argentinian plays Buble's love interest in the music video for "Haven't Met You Yet." Buble was previously engaged to Academy Award-nominated actress Emily Blunt. No wedding date has been set.

Taylor, King announce US dates for reunion tour

BOSTON (AP) — In the four decades since James Taylor and Carole King helped launch each other's storied careers, the notion of someday recapturing that magic never completely faded. "Every time we would run into each other at a benefit or at an event ... we'd say we have to get the band back together, get that band back together and do some touring before the chance slips away," Taylor said in a recent interview. On Monday, Taylor and King announced dates for the U.S. leg of their much-anticipated "Troubadour Reunion" tour. The tour, marking the 40th anniversary of the pair's breakthrough shows, will launch May 7 in Portland, Oregon. As previously announced, the tour will begin overseas in Melbourne, Australia, on March 26. "In a sense we started our solo careers sharing a band, sharing a stage, we did a show at the Troubadour in Los Angeles that really sort of broke both of us out of the box and established our careers," Taylor said. King played on Taylor's 1970 "Sweet Baby James" album and Taylor on King's 1971 "Tapestry" album.

'Up,' 'The Hurt Locker' top Golden Tomato Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An animated adventure about a widower who sails away in a house lifted by a bouquet of balloons and an up-close look at a bomb-squad unit in Iraq were the top critical favorites of 2009. Now "Up" and "The Hurt Locker" are top winners at the Golden Tomato Awards.

The awards honor the best-reviewed films of the year as determined by the Web site RottenTomatoes.com, which compiles reviews from critics to measure the percentage of favorable critiques.

Pixar's "Up" collected positive reviews from 98 percent of critics, earning it the Golden Tomato for a film in wide release. "The Hurt Locker" was the best-reviewed limited release film, with 97 percent of critics recommending it.

"Up" is the sixth Pixar film to rank above all others. "WALL-E" won the Golden Tomato in 2008 and "Ratatouille" took the title in 2007.

"Every year since we started doing this award, if they've got a movie, they win," said Rotten Tomatoes Editor-in-Chief Matt Atchity. "They just consistently turn out really good quality movies."

While there's no direct relationship between the Golden Tomatoes and the Academy Awards, Atchity says "Up" and "The Hurt Locker" are both likely to earn Oscar attention this year.

"The Golden Tomato winners don't necessarily win the Oscar but they usually do show up in the nominees," he said, adding that he expects both to earn best-picture nominations.

The Moldy Tomato Award, for the year's worst-reviewed film, went to "Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li." Only four percent of critics gave it a positive review.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Summit Entertainment,Jeremy Renner is shown in a scene from, "The Hurt Locker."

'Trek,' 'Road,' 'Parnassus' vie for makeup Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tales of science fiction, fantasy and the future dominate contenders for the Academy Award in makeup.

The seven finalists announced Monday for the makeup Oscar include the sci-fi tales "Star Trek" and "District 9," the fantasy comedy "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian," the apocalypse drama "The Road" and the fantasy "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," the final film of the late Heath Ledger.

The other finalists are the British royalty saga "The Young Victoria" and the Italian political drama "Il Divo."

Members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences makeup branch will view 10-minute excerpts from each film and select three nominees, which will be announced with other Oscar nominations Feb. 2.

'Avatar,' 'Basterds' earn cinema nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The science-fiction tale "Avatar" and the war stories "The Hurt Locker" and "Inglourious Basterds" are among films competing for the top honor from the American Society of Cinematographers.

Mauro Fiore was nominated Monday for "Avatar," along with Barry Ackroyd for "The Hurt Locker," Robert Richardson for "Inglourious Basterds," Dion Beebe for the musical "Nine" and Christian Berger for the German drama "The White Ribbon."

The winner will be announced at the group's awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Feb. 27, the weekend before the Academy Awards.

The recipient of the group's award often goes on to win the cinematography Oscar, including last year's "Slumdog Millionaire."

AP

In this Feb. 11, 2007 file photo, the Dixie Chicks, Emily Robison, left, Natalie Maines, center, and Martie Maguire, who earned five Grammy nominations, arrive for the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

2 of 3 Dixie Chicks returning with new music

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Two members of the Dixie Chicks—minus lead singer Natalie Maines—are preparing to release a new album this year.

According to CMT.com, sisters Martie Maguire and Emily Robison are working on a project to be released on Columbia Records.

However, Lloyd Maines, Natalie's father, tells CMT.com that the three girls are "definitely still an entity." He says the sisters are "cutting some demos" and that Natalie recorded "a little something with them" about a year ago.

The Associated Press' attempts to contact their publicist and Columbia Records were unsuccessful.

The Dixie Chicks suffered a backlash from fans and country radio over comments Natalie Maines made about President George W. Bush in 2003. The Chicks released their last album in 2006, called "Taking the Long Way."

Boulder film festival to honor Alec Baldwin

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Boulder International Film Festival organizers say actor Alec Baldwin will be the featured guest at the sixth annual event.

The festival runs Feb. 11-15, and Baldwin is scheduled to receive the festival's 2010 Award for Excellence in Acting on Feb. 14.

The star of "30 Rock" is co-hosting the Academy Awards in Los Angeles on March 7 with actor Steve Martin.

Lloyd Webber prostate cancer treatment is success

NEW YORK (AP)—Andrew Lloyd Webber says he has been successfully treated for prostate cancer. The composer of "The Phantom of the Opera," "Evita" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" says he is now "fighting fit" after the operation to remove his prostate gland and later battling an E.coli infection.

Lloyd Webber first revealed his thoughts in a health diary published over the weekend in the (London) Mail on Sunday and later posted on the composer's Web site.

The 61-year-old composer said, "I will need regular follow-up checks over the years, but we have arrived—at the end of a long journey—at the best possible outcome."

Lloyd Webber currently is preparing for the London premiere in March of "Love Never Dies," his sequel to "The Phantom of the Opera," and a new BBC television series to cast Dorothy in a stage adaptation of "The Wizard of Oz."

Union rep advises silence in response to harassment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm at my wit's end at work. There's a woman in her early 30s here who is out of the closet, and very vocal about being a butch lesbian. I'm straight, happily married and 20 years older than she is.

Abby, she keeps hitting on me! I've told her I'm not interested and that I'm straight. She then makes comments that she has converted other women. She does this in front of others and it's mortifying. Yes, I'm old-fashioned and religious, and I do consider her sexual behavior immoral. I am also tired of feeling like I have to apologize for my religious beliefs.

I have spoken to my union rep, but was told not to create trouble for another union member. I'm sorry, but I don't like this sexual harassment. I want to go to HR about it, but I'm afraid it will start a riot in the union if she's fired over this complaint. There have been other complaints about her harassing people. Please advise.

BEING HARASSED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR HARASSED: Your union rep is wrong. Would the person tell you to tolerate sexual harassment if your harasser was a man? The behavior you have described is against the law whether it's done by a male or female, regardless of sexual orientation.

Tell your rep you want it stopped immediately, and that if it isn't, you WILL take it to HR. Your religious beliefs do not enter into this. The woman's behavior is creating a hostile work environment.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 26-year-old minor league baseball player. I have been involved in two serious relationships. My first was a girl I became engaged to when I was 20 and in college playing baseball there. I loved her and was committed to her, but she was jealous of my "first love"—my sport. She constantly tried in subtle ways to get me to quit. After we had a huge fight, she finally threw my ring back at me.

I stayed single for a couple of years and then met a woman and began slowly dating her. The first year our relationship was good, but over the next three years the same issues arose and I was hearing, "You're selfish." "You don't love me." "Grow up!"

Being a professional baseball player has been my dream since I was 5, and I'm not ready to give up on it yet. Both these women continue to call and text me crying because it didn't work out. I'm angry at them for not supporting me, but I also feel sad for them because all they did was love me. What do I do about them and about trusting women with my heart and dreams?

LOVELESS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR LOVELESS: Stop allowing those women to lay a guilt trip on you. I'm sure when you met them you made it clear that you wanted a career in baseball—and the sacrifice that would mean for all parties concerned. Instead of wasting more time looking back, tell these women goodbye once and for all and stop responding to their calls and messages.

To be the wife of a professional athlete takes a special kind of woman, someone with a strong sense of independence because of the number and length of the inevitable separations that come with the sports business. Look around at your teammates who have successful marriages, then ask them if they know any eligible ladies. I can't guarantee you won't strike out, but I'm willing to wager that the odds of hitting a home run will be better.

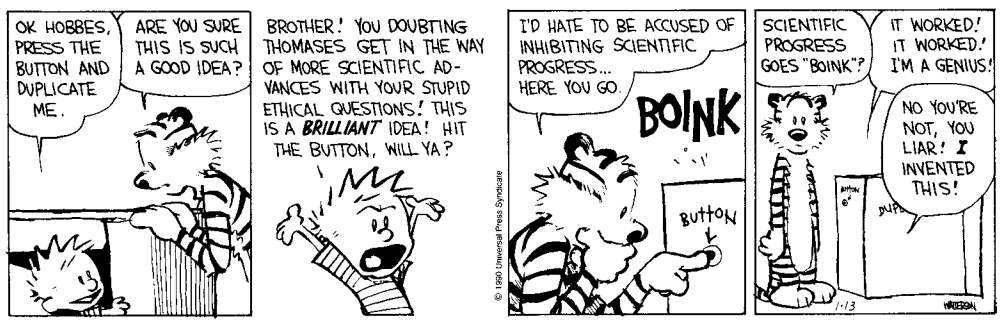
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK HOBBES, PRESS THE BUTTON AND DUPLICATE ME.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA?
BROTHER! YOU DOUBTING THOMASES GET IN THE WAY OF MORE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES WITH YOUR STUPID ETHICAL QUESTIONS! THIS IS A BRILLIANT IDEA! HIT THE BUTTON, WILL YA?
I'D HATE TO BE ACCUSED OF INHIBITING SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS... HERE YOU GO.
BOINK
BUTTON
SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS GOES "BOINK"?
IT WORKED! IT WORKED! I'M A GENIUS!
NO YOU'RE NOT, YOU LIAR! I INVENTED THIS!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

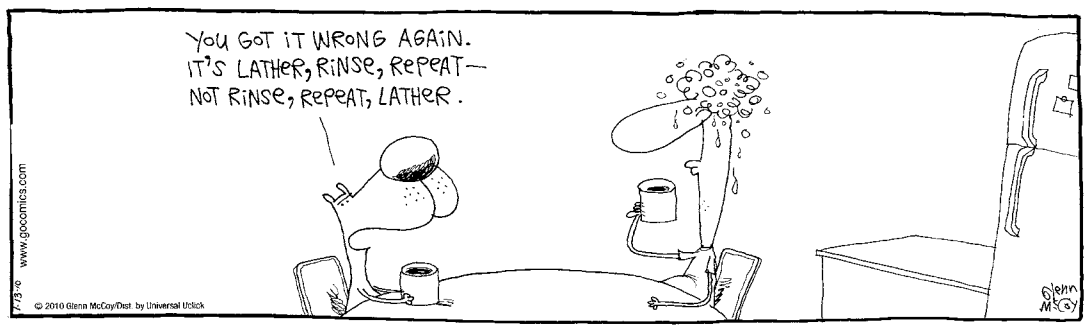
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I CAN TELL I'M SICK BY THE WEIRD DREAMS I HAD LAST NIGHT.
WHAT WERE THEY?
I DREAMED OF 'THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA,' 'JULIE & JULIA,' 'IT'S COMPLICATED' AND 'SILKWOOD.'
THOSE ARE ALL MERYL...
© 2010 Universal Uclick
RIGHT. THE DREADED EARLY SYMPTOMS OF 'STREEP THROAT.'
YOU ARE SICK.
www.gocomics.com
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU GOT IT WRONG AGAIN. IT'S LATHER, RINSE, REPEAT— NOT RINSE, REPEAT, LATHER.
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

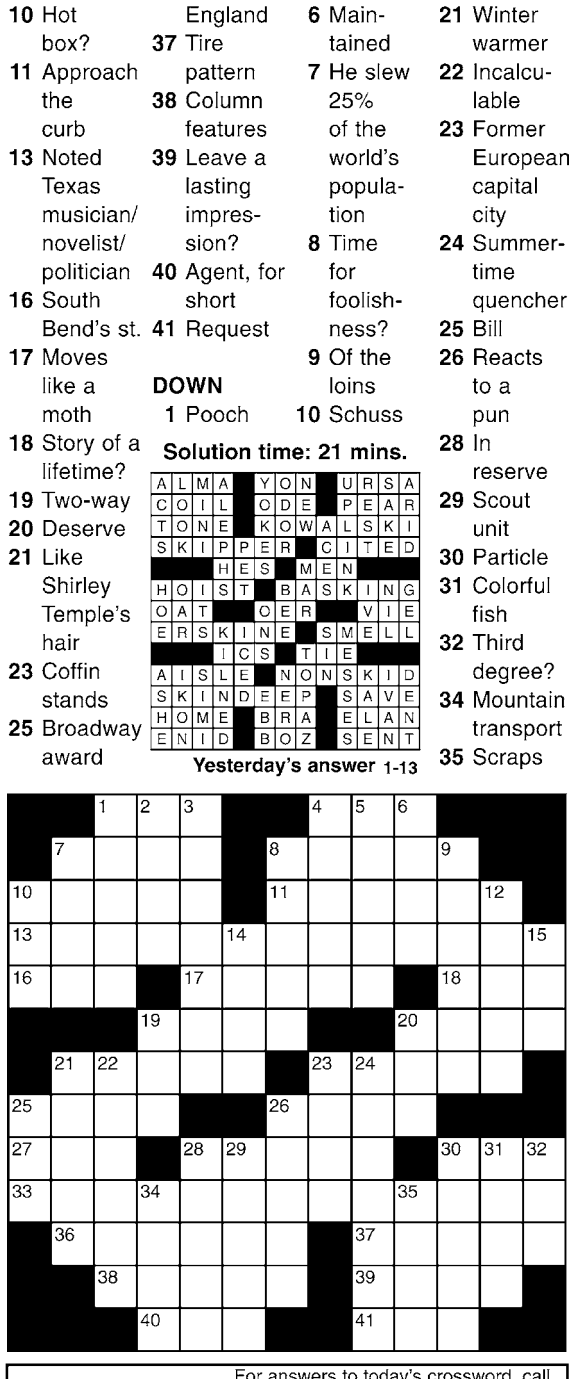
ACROSS
1 Bound
4 E-I connection
7 Snaky shape
8 The Little Mermaid
10 Hot box?
11 Approach the curb
13 Noted Texas musician/novelist/politician
16 South Bend's st.
17 Moves like a moth
18 Story of a lifetime?
19 Two-way
20 Deserve
21 Like Shirley Temple's hair
23 Coffin stands
25 Broadway award
26 Make fun of
27 Pretend
28 Expiate
30 Dandy
33 "Yakety Sax" musician
36 Poets' name for England
37 Tire pattern
38 Column features
39 Leave a lasting impression?
40 Agent, for short
41 Request

DOWN
1 Pooch
2 Barnyard sound
3 Frolicsome
4 Some produce
5 Saint honored on Sept. 1
6 Maintained
7 He slew 25% of the world's population
8 Time for foolishness?
9 Of the loins
10 Schuss
12 Twosomes
14 TV chef Bobby
15 "Smoking or —?"
19 Parch
20 "A mouse!"
21 Winter warmer
22 Incalculable
23 Former European capital city
24 Summertime quencher
25 Bill
26 Reacts to a pun
28 In reserve
29 Scout unit
30 Particle
31 Colorful fish
32 Third degree?
34 Mountain transport
35 Scraps

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	M	A	■	Y	O	N	■	U	R	S	A
C	O	I	L	■	O	D	E	■	P	E	A	R
T	O	N	E	■	K	O	W	A	L	S	K	I
S	K	I	P	P	E	R	■	C	I	T	E	D
■	■	■	H	E	S	■	M	E	N	■	■	■
H	O	I	S	T	■	B	A	S	K	I	N	G
O	A	T	■	■	O	E	R	■	■	V	I	E
E	R	S	K	I	N	E	■	S	M	E	L	L
■	■	■	I	C	S	■	T	I	E	■	■	■
A	I	S	L	E	■	N	O	N	S	K	I	D
S	K	I	N	D	E	E	P	■	S	A	V	E
H	O	M	E	■	B	R	A	■	E	L	A	N
E	N	I	D	■	B	O	Z	■	S	E	N	T

Yesterday's answer 1-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Orlando Bloom, 33; Stephen Hendry, 41; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 49; Richard Moll 67

Happy Birthday: Take the road less traveled this year if you want to come out ahead of the game. There is money to be made if you aren't too rigid or stuck in your ways. Problems with institutions, government agencies or large corporations will be troublesome. Approach each situation with honesty and you should be able to sway anyone who is opposing you. Your numbers are 4, 14, 21, 23, 29, 38, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't jump into anything too fast. You need time to digest what's going on around you. Making a move that is not in your best interest will jeopardize your chance to get ahead professionally and personally. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can't back down now when there is so much to gain by taking action. Travel, learning and professional advancement will all play a role in your future. Don't trust anyone else to take care of your business. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Learn whatever you can from the people traveling down a path similar to yours. Sharing your findings will enable you to grow in directions that aren't possible on your own. By working hard and cutting your costs, you will end up in a good position. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let opposition be your downfall. Instead, welcome what's being said and use the information to better serve yourself and your ideas. You can make amends for anything you have done to upset someone you care for. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You must put all your efforts into getting along with the people you deal and work with. Don't let a minor health problem turn into something much worse by neglecting proper care. An old responsibility will not be easy to walk away from. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Change is good, especially if you initiate it. A romantic encounter will help to stabilize your current personal situation, allowing you to know without a doubt the direction you want to take in the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't count on anyone or anything. Do the work yourself if you want something done properly. Nothing will go according to plan and problems with loved ones will leave you feeling down. Explore new possibilities. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make some very interesting moves if you communicate with people headed in the same direction as you. Dealing with publishing, media or any other form of communication will work in your favor. Push, present and promote what you do best. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Industrious action will be required if you want to turn a talent or service you have into something that everyone wants. Pull out every means available to you in order to hold on to what you've worked so hard to achieve. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): The only one standing in your way is you. Lift any restrictions or limitations you are harboring and get to the point. You have a lot to offer if you take old ideas and mix them with your new and progressive tactics. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Not everyone will be upfront with you. Someone may even try to take advantage of you. Surround yourself with people who can offer suggestions and teach you new skills. The more you do for others, the better equipped you will be for your own purposes. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The more enterprising you are, the better you can deal with groups and getting your ideas or plans up and running. A partnership that is holding you back must be ended. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You don't mince words and you don't take chances. You are quiet and reserved, with great depth and sincere interest in human nature.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	7	3	1	9	6	8	
	8						1	
		5	8	6	4	3		
	2						3	
8					5			9
6				3		5		8
9					3			2
	5						9	
		8	9	5	2	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	1	5	8	2	3	9	7
2	9	8	6	7	3	1	4	5
3	7	5	9	4	1	2	8	6
9	5	4	8	1	7	6	2	3
8	1	2	3	9	6	7	5	4
7	6	3	2	5	4	9	1	8
5	8	6	1	3	9	4	7	2
4	3	9	7	2	5	8	6	1
1	2	7	4	6	8	5	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/12

©2009 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RUB-A-DUB-DUB (For Victor Latulippe) **Solution: 9 letters**

Y	Y	S	L	E	W	O	T	N	A	S	A	E	L	P
D	R	C	H	O	R	U	S	T	T	D	C	Y	E	A
O	O	E	R	A	E	L	C	C	V	H	R	G	D	O
L	T	D	I	T	T	Y	U	E	I	I	N	K	D	S
E	S	A	R	H	P	D	R	L	C	U	A	W	Y	E
M	U	S	I	C	O	T	D	S	L	O	W	I	D	S
O	V	C	Y	R	I	R	B	P	S	A	M	F	D	R
T	O	H	P	S	E	P	C	A	R	E	B	E	A	E
H	Y	A	I	N	N	B	I	B	S	I	S	I	D	V
E	A	N	Y	M	M	U	M	N	U	N	O	D	E	Y
R	G	T	T	U	N	E	R	E	K	T	A	H	I	S
I	E	I	R	O	M	U	H	S	O	C	H	E	C	K
D	M	J	O	Y	F	U	L	Y	E	P	E	T	C	O
E	A	S	H	O	W	S	S	E	E	R	H	T	A	O
R	S	R	E	P	A	I	D	U	C	K	Ⓨ	Ⓑ	Ⓐ	Ⓑ

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 1/13

Advertising, Baby, Bathtub, Bibs, Books, Care, Chant, Check, Children, Choir, Chorus, Clear, Comedy, Daddy, Diapers, Ditty, Ducky, Humor, Joyful, Kids, Lullabies, Lyrics, Melody, Mother, Mummy, Music, Nursery, Ocean, Phrase, Pink, Pleasant, Plunge, Poem, Products, Ride, Shows, Slow, Soak, Soap, Story, Three, Time, Towels, Toys, Tune, Verses, Voyage, Wife

Yesterday's Answer: Inflate

Just in time for gift-giving: Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For $230.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars preferably, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki & Isuzu. Must bee 2000 & above model. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

FOR LEASE

Long-term Land Lease property.
San Vicente area.
Contact no. 483-8295.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Commercial Space
FOR RENT
in Garapan across GIG
Renovated to accommodate Restaurants
Please call 483-7634 for more info.

WHATZIT Solution: Leave no stone unturned

Wanted Commercial Cleaner
Preferably US Citizen
Send your bio-data to
onecall2009@gmail.com
or call 234-2697

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
U.S., Green Card Holders & CNMI Permanent Residents

T&A TAKAGI & ASSOCIATES, INC.
is seeking qualified candidates for

INSURANCE CLERK

Please apply in person to complete application
Police Clearance Required

Lobby, BOH Bldg., Marina Heights I
Puerto Rico, Saipan

TAKAGI & ASSOCIATES, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
(No phone calls, please)

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Building
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
EVA VILLAFUERTE WILKINS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of **GABRIEL LAGRASON ALZAGA (d.o.b. 03/08/2005), Minor Child,** By **EVA VILLAFUERTE WILKINS,** Petitioner.	FCD – AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0625 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Eva Villafuerte Wilkins filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor child Gabriel Lagrason Alzaga (d.o.b. 03/08/2005) in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on January 21, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 28th day of October 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Building
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
CONRADO MANZANO TORIO and
ROSITA DELOS SANTOS TORIO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of **MARLAI MJ SABLAN RIALES (d.o.b. 08/14/2003), Minor Child,** By **CONRADO MANZANO TORIO and ROSITA DELOS SANTOS TORIO,** Petitioners.	FCD – AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0624 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Conrado Manzano Torio and Rosita Delos Santos Torio filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor child Marlai MJ Sablan Riales (d.o.b. 08/14/2003) in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on January 21, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 28th day of October 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Saipan Tribune
Sports
28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
saipan tribune.com
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't
Immigration
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ETAGA LAPO ZAPOT

© 2010 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

McGwire admits using steroids

NEWYORK (AP)—Sobbing and sniffling, Mark McGwire finally answered the steroid question.

Ending more than a decade of denials and evasion, McGwire admitted Monday what many had suspected for so long—that steroids and human growth hormone helped make him a home run king.

"The toughest thing is my wife, my parents, close friends have had no idea that I hid it from them all this time," he told The Associated Press in an emotional, 20-minute interview. "I knew this day was going to come. I didn't know when."

In a quavering voice, McGwire apologized and said he used steroids and human growth hormone on and off for a decade, starting before the 1990 season and including the year he broke Roger Maris' single-season home run record in 1998.

"I wish I had never touched steroids," McGwire said. "It was foolish and it was a mistake."

He had mostly disappeared since his infamous testimony before a congressional committee in March 2005, when he said, "I'm not here to talk about the past." He had been in self-imposed exile from public view, an object of ridicule for refusing to answer the questions.

Once he was hired by the Cardinals in October to be their hitting coach, however, he knew he had to say something before the start of spring training in mid-February.

Before a carefully rolled out schedule of statements and interviews, he called commissioner Bud Selig, St. Louis manager Tony La Russa and Maris' widow, Pat, on Monday to personally break the news and left messages for the current stars of the Cardinals. He issued a statement and called the AP to get his admission out, then gave several interviews.

"It was a wrong thing what I did. I totally regret it. I just wish I was never in that era," he said.

McGwire even understands why the Maris family now believes that Maris' 61 homers in 1961 should be considered authentic record.

"They have every right to," McGwire said in an interview on the MLB Network.

In his AP interview, McGwire's voice shook when he recounted breaking the news to his son, Matt, who is 22. When McGwire hit the record homer, he hoisted Matt—then a 10-year-old batboy—at home plate. The former player called that conversation the toughest task in the ordeal.

AP
In this image from video, Mark McGwire wipes his eye during an interview with Bob Costas on MLB Network on Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. McGwire admitted earlier Monday he used steroids when he broke baseball's home run record in 1998.

"He's very, very understandable. So are my parents," McGwire said. "The biggest thing that they said is they're very proud of me, that I'm doing this. They all believe it's for the better. And then I just hope we can move on from this and start my new career as a coach."

McGwire was a baseball icon—Big Mac, with a Paul Bunyan physique and a home run swing that made fans come out to the ballpark early to watch batting practice. He hit 583 home runs, tied for eighth on the career list, and his average of one every 10.6 at-bats is the best ever.

His record of 70 home runs in 1998 was surpassed by Barry Bonds' 73 homers in 2001— the year of McGwire's retirement and the apex of the Steroids Era. Bonds himself has denied knowingly using illegal drugs but has been indicted on charges he made false statements to a federal grand jury and obstructed justice.

In four appearances on the Hall of Fame ballot, McGwire has hovered at 21-24 percent, well below the 75 percent necessary.

"This has nothing to do with the Hall of Fame," he said. "This has to do with me coming clean, getting it off my chest, and five years that I've held this in."

Yet, he sounded as if all the criticism had wounded the pride he had built as the 1987 AL Rookie of the Year and a 12-time All-Star.

"There's no way a pill or an injection will give you hand-eye coordination or the ability or the great mind that I've had as a baseball player," he said. "I was always the last one to leave. I was always hitting by myself. I took care of myself."

He said he first used steroids between the 1989 and 1990 seasons, after helping the Oakland Athletics to a World Series sweep when he and Jose Canseco formed the Bash Brothers.

"When you work out at gyms, people talk about things like that. It was readily available," he said. "I tried it for a couple of weeks. I really didn't think much of it."

He said he returned to steroids after the 1993 season, when he missed all but 27 games with a mysterious heel injury, after being told steroids might speed his recovery.

"I did this for health purposes. There's no way I did this for any type of strength purposes," he said.

"I truly believe I was given the gifts from the Man Upstairs of being a home run hitter, ever since ... birth," McGwire said. "My first hit as a Little Leaguer was a home run. I mean, they still talk about the home runs I hit in high school, in Legion ball. I led the nation in home runs in college, and then all the way up to my rookie year, 49 home runs.

"But, starting '93 to '94, I thought it might help me, you know, where I'd get my body feeling normal, where I wasn't a walking MASH unit," he said.

And there was the pressure of living up to his previous performance and his multimillion-dollar salary, McGwire said, adding that he was "getting paid a lot of money to try to stay up to that level."

After being confronted by the AP during the home run streak in 1998, McGwire admitted using androstenedione, a steroid precursor that was then legally available and didn't become a controlled substance until 2004. Baseball and its players didn't agree to ban steroids until a year after his retirement.

McGwire wasn't sure whether his use of performance-enhancing drugs contributed to some of the injuries that led to his retirement, at age 38, in 2001.

"It could have. I don't know," he said.

McGwire's 70 homers in 1998 came in a compelling race with Sammy Sosa, who finished with 66. More than anything else, the home run spree revitalized baseball following the crippling strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series.

Now that McGwire has come clean, increased glare might fall on Sosa, who has denied using performing-enhancing drugs.

Selig praised McGwire, saying, "This statement of contrition, I believe, will make Mark's re-entry into the game much smoother and easier."

McGwire became the second major baseball star in less than a year to admit using illegal steroids, following the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez last February. Big Mac and A-Rod, coincidentally, are currently tied on the home-run list.

Besides Bonds, others facing questions include Roger Clemens, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz. Like Bonds, they have denied knowingly using illegal or banned substances. Clemens is under investigation by a federal grand jury trying to determine whether he lied to a congressional committee.

"I'm sure people will wonder if I could have hit all those home runs had I never taken steroids," McGwire said in his statement. "I had good years when I didn't take any, and I had bad years when I didn't take any. I had good years when I took steroids, and I had bad years when I took steroids. But no matter what, I shouldn't have done it and for that I'm truly sorry."

McGwire said he wanted to come forward at the congressional hearing on March 17, 2005, when he sat alongside Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro, who denied using steroids but tested positive for one later that year.

"I wanted to get this off my chest, I wanted to move on, but unfortunately immunity was not granted," he said.

McGwire's lawyers, Mark Bierbower and Marty Steinberg, told him that if he made any admission, he could be charged with a crime and that he, his family and friends could be forced to testify before a grand jury.

"That was the worst 48 hours of my life, going through that, but I had to listen to the advice of my attorneys," he said.

He knew that Don Hooton, whose son's suicide was linked to steroid use, was in the audience.

"Every time I'd say, `I'm not going to talk about the past,' I'd hear moanings back there. It was absolutely ripping my heart out," McGwire said, his voice cracking. "All I was worried about was protecting my family and myself. And I was willing to take the hit."

Bierbower told the AP in a telephone interview that he had instructed McGwire not to make any admissions before Congress.

"He also had a situation where his brother had been giving him steroids and he didn't want to create a risk for his brother, either," Bierbower said.

Following McGwire's decision to go public, La Russa immediately praised his former star.

"His willingness to admit mistakes, express his regret and explain the circumstances that led him to use steroids add to my respect for him," the manager said.

But for many, McGwire's remarks were only confirmation of what they already concluded.

"He knows he owes the baseball world an explanation," said former Rep. Tom Davis, the Virginia Republican who chaired the hearing. "I think we all knew this. I don't think anybody's surprised by this. He was one of hundreds of players who used steroids during this time. ... This was so widespread. Had we not held these hearings and put the fear of God into baseball, it would still be going on."

McGwire followed the Yankees' Andy Pettitte and Rodriguez in his decision to publicly admit using performance-enhancing drugs. McGwire wouldn't say whether other players in a similar situation should follow his example.

"That's for them to decide, what they need to do," he said. "It's been a rough morning, I'm ready to take it on and tell my story, again, to be honest and hope we can just move on from this."

Guerrero completes deal with Texas Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Vladimir Guerrero will now be hitting in the middle of the lineup for the Texas Rangers instead of doing damage against them.

Guerrero and the Rangers finalized a one-year contract Monday that guarantees him $6.5 million and includes a mutual option for 2011.

"I feel good that I've had a lot of success hitting here and I'm hoping to help the team win and stay healthy and do the same things I've done in the past on this field," Guerrero said through an interpreter during his introduction. "I've been well for the last couple of months and I'm just hoping to be healthy in 2010."

The eight-time All-Star and former AL MVP passed a physical. His deal calls for a $5.5 million salary this year and has a $1 million buyout of the option year.

Guerrero helped lead the Angels to five AL West titles the past six years and was the AL MVP in 2004, his first season in Los Angeles after beginning his career with Montreal from 1996-2003. He is a .396 career hitter against Texas, which finished second in the West last season, 10 games behind Los Angeles.

The Angels showed little interest in retaining Guerrero, who had two stints on the disabled list last season (torn right pectoral muscle and strained left knee) and turns 35 next month. Los Angeles signed free-agent slugger Hideki Matsui and kept Bobby Abreu with a $19 million, two-year contract.

Guerrero is a career .321 hitter with 407 homers and 1,318 RBIs in 1,850 career games. He is a .394 career hitter at Rangers Ballpark, with 14 homers and 33 RBIs in 50 games at his new home.

"We've been on the bad end of this man's bat for the last six years, taking some serious beatings from him," general manager Jon Daniels said. "I think we're pretty excited to see him dole some of those out in our uniform."

Guerrero, who will primarily be the designated hitter but still play some outfield, fills one of the Rangers' biggest offseason wants with a powerful right-handed bat for the middle of the lineup with Michael Young and Josh Hamilton. The Rangers lost outfielder Marlon Byrd in free agency to the Chicago Cubs.

"I've never been beat up by a player like what Vlad had done to us over the years," Young said. "Our entire team is excited to have him aboard."

In the first 44 games of his career against Texas, Guerrero had one of baseball's most peculiar streaks: a 44-game hitting streak from 2004-06, the longest stretch by any player against one team since at least 1957.

Plagued by the injuries last season, Guerrero hit .295 with 15 homers and 50 RBIs in 100 games, all his lowest totals since he was a rookie for the Expos in 1997 and missed 52 games because of three DL stints.

"I don't feel like I need to prove anything, just do my job," Guerrero said.

Asked if he considered himself a DH, Guerrero said he was "not ready to make that commitment in my head" but understands the Rangers' plans.

"The whole key is that we're going to do whatever we have to do to keep him healthy," said manager Ron Washington, adding the slugger would play the outfield "here and there."

Carroll says challenge drove him from USC to NFL

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pete Carroll loves challenges and the NFL game. The Seattle Seahawks offered both, and not even Southern California could compete.

Carroll ended his nine-year tenure with the Trojans on Monday, leaving behind a program facing multiple woes for a lucrative deal to coach the Seahawks.

"If you know anything about me, you know I can't pass up this challenge," Carroll said.

USC quarterback Matt Barkley also said quarterbacks coach Jeremy Bates is leaving with Carroll after just one season, presumably to become the Seahawks' offensive coordinator.

Carroll won 97 games, seven Pac-10 titles and two national championships at USC, but the school is under a cloud of an NCAA investigation and other scandals after its worst season since Carroll's first year. Although the charismatic 58-year-old coach spoke glowingly of his "gorgeous" tenure in Los Angeles, he jumped at the best—and timeliest—of many offers he's received over the years to return to the NFL, which he reveres as "the highest level of competition."

"I do not expect to ever be able to top what we just did," Carroll said. "I think it's just been a beautiful time together. It hurts to separate right now ... but it can't keep on going, because I can't pass up this opportunity."

Carroll's departure ends one of the most successful runs in college football history—perhaps right when it was about to become much less fun, considering the just-completed 9-4 season which ended USC's run atop the Pac-10 and snapped its string of BCS bowl games.

Carroll insisted his decision had nothing to do with the NCAA's lengthy look into his program, denouncing rumors of a rift between him and athletic director Mike Garrett. Carroll said he thought he "would be here forever."

AP

University of Southern California football coach Pete Carroll comments on his leaving to become coach of the Seattle Seahawks during a news conference at the USC campus in Los Angeles on Monday, Jan 11, 2010.

But Seahawks owner Paul Allen pried the 58-year-old coach out of a comfortable oceanside life as one of the most popular sports figures in the nation's second-largest media market, with numerous charity endeavors and a team that helped fill the area's NFL void.

Carroll is taking along Bates, a longtime NFL assistant who essentially replaced Steve Sarkisian last year as the leader of the Trojans' offense. Sarkisian recruited Barkley before jumping ship to the University of Washington last year.

"It's kind of disappointing to see them leave," Barkley said. "More than anything, it's a challenge to get better and just reach another level. I came to this school because I wanted to be a Trojan, and nothing about coaches leaving would change that for me."

Carroll's departure seeped out to his players through various unconfirmed reports in the media over the weekend. The Trojans who straggled into Heritage Hall for an afternoon meeting chose USC largely on the strength of Carroll's success and charisma, but they returned to classes Monday with no idea what was next.

"I kind of didn't want to come to the meeting today, but it's something you've got to do," said tailback Allen Bradford, who will be the Trojans' top returning rusher with Joe McKnight's early departure for the NFL. "How he got us training and competing, I don't think that's ever going to leave us. The new coach coming in is going to see this team is hungry and wants to win."

Bradford planned to hold a players-only meeting in the locker room after Carroll's farewell address.

Garrett brushed past dozens of reporters after Carroll's news conference, maintaining his largely silent public stance about his troubled department, which sanctioned its own men's basketball program recently in an attempt to assuage the NCAA.

"I'm working on the next step, and when I finish, you'll hear about it," Garrett said. "I don't talk about my search."

Garrett's search for a replacement is likely to be speedy, with national signing day looming Feb. 3 and several recruits already wondering about their tentative commitments to USC. Barkley and Bradford said they planned to be on the phone with every recruit, encouraging them to stick with the Trojans.

Oregon State coach Mike Riley, a former USC assistant and 2001 candidate for the top job, is staying in Corvallis with a new three-year contract extension. Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher is a former USC player and California native, but previously said he wasn't interested.

Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio, another former USC star with no college coaching experience, might be the most interested target for Garrett, though Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver is thought to want Del Rio back for an eighth season. Weaver and Del Rio are expected to meet Tuesday.

As for the NCAA investigation into allegations former USC tailback Reggie Bush and his family received improper benefits from a marketing agent, Yahoo! Sports reported Monday—citing unidentified sources—that the NCAA has concluded its inquiry.

Yahoo! Sports reported the NCAA's Committee on Infractions will meet from Feb. 19-21 to address what investigators uncovered at USC.

Another potential NCAA problem arose last month when McKnight was forced to sit out the Emerald Bowl while the school investigated his use of an SUV that was not registered to him.

USC punished itself for recruiting violations involving former basketball player O.J. Mayo, including a ban on postseason play this season. Mayo allegedly received improper cash and gifts while at USC and playing for former coach Tim Floyd, who quit in June.

Carroll's hiring capped a busy weekend for Seahawks chief executive Tod Leiweke. Seattle fired coach Jim Mora on Friday after just one season, and Leiweke spent Sunday in Hermosa Beach completing a deal with Carroll.

"We are excited to add Pete as our coach. He brings a great passion for winning and a positive attitude that is contagious," Leiweke said.

Carroll and Bates aren't the only Trojans leaving town for the NFL. McKnight, leading receiver Damian Williams and defensive lineman Everson Griffen all have said they'll skip their senior seasons to enter the NFL draft, while offensive line coach Pat Ruel and linebackers coach Ken Norton Jr. also are reportedly headed to Seattle.

"(Carroll) doesn't have to apologize," Trojans receiver Brice Butler said. "He made the decision that was best for him. You can't cry like a baby. Crying doesn't get you anywhere."

Cavs make it four straight wins against Warriors

OAKLAND, California (AP)—LeBron James had 37 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds as Cleveland ran its winning streak against Golden State to four games with a 117-114 victory Monday.

Shaquille O'Neal added 13 points and six rebounds and three Cleveland reserves scored in double digits in the Cavs' fourth straight win at Oracle Arena.

After a victory at Portland on Sunday, the Cavaliers won playing on consecutive nights for the sixth time in 11 tries this season but had to hold off a late rally by the Warriors.

Monta Ellis had 30 points, five assists and five steals, but missed 11 straight shots during a stretch spanning the second and third quarters. Corey Maggette added 32 points and seven rebounds for Golden State, which was denied its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Hawks 102, Celtics 96

At Boston, Joe Johnson scored 36 points, shooting 5 of 7 attempts from 3-point range, to lead Atlanta over Boston.

Rajon Rondo had 26 points and seven assists for Boston. Rasheed Wallace was a last-minute scratch because of a sore left foot, and Boston was already without Kevin Garnett.

Al Horford had nine points and 12 rebounds for Atlanta, and reserve Jamal Crawford scored 17—including the last six of the game.

76ers 96, Hornets 92

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala and Elton Brand scored 18 points each and Allen Iverson added 16 as Philadelphia snapped a four-game home losing streak.

Thaddeus Young and Lou Williams added 12 points each and Samuel Dalembert had six points, 14 rebounds and five blocks for the Sixers, who had lost nine of 10 at home.

Dalembert had 12 rebounds in the first quarter, the most in one quarter by a Philadelphia player since the Wachovia Center opened for the 1996-97 season.

Emeka Okafor had 20 points and 11 rebounds, David West added 13 points and 13 rebounds and Chris Paul had 13 points and 14 assists for the Hornets, whose season-best six-game winning streak was snapped.

Pacers 105, Raptors 101

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 23 points as Indiana overcame a 23-point deficit to beat Toronto.

Troy Murphy had 20 points and 16 rebounds, A.J. Price scored 16 points and Mike Dunleavy added 15 for the Pacers, who had lost two straight. It was Indiana's first win since Granger's return from a heel injury that had kept him out for a month.

Chris Bosh had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Andrea Bargnani added 12 points and 17 rebounds for the Raptors, who played their third game in four days.

Bulls 120, Pistons 87

At Chicago, Luol Deng scored 27 points on 13-of-18 shooting as Chicago handed Detroit its 13th consecutive loss.

The Pistons matched their longest skid since losing 13 straight to end the 1993-94 season.

Derrick Rose finished with 22 points on 11-of-13 shooting for the Bulls, who shot 57.1 percent overall, including 70.6 percent in the third quarter.

Rookie Jonas Jerebko had 15 points and nine rebounds and Richard Hamilton added 17 points for the Pistons.

Thunder 106, Knicks 88

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 30 points as Oklahoma City won for the eighth time in the last 10 games.

Durant, who entered the game with a 28.7-point average, had 15 in the first quarter as Oklahoma City built a double-digit lead it kept for most of the rest of the game.

Nate Robinson had 19 points for New York, which suffered its worst loss since falling by 22 points in the season opener against Miami.

Russell Westbrook added 17 points and five assists for Oklahoma City.

Jazz 118, Heat 89

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 23 points and 10 assists, and Carlos Boozer finished with 25 points and 11 rebounds as Utah beat Miami for the first time in more than two years.

Mehmet Okur added 13 points and tied his career high with five blocks as the Jazz beat the Heat for the first time since December 2007.

Michael Beasley scored 20 points for Miami and Dwyane Wade finished with 13 points and six assists despite spraining his right wrist late in the first quarter.

Suns 105, Bucks 101

At Phoenix, Steve Nash had 30 points and 11 assists to help Phoenix rally after blowing a 24-point lead and beat Milwaukee for the 22nd consecutive time at home.

The Bucks were without coach Scott Skiles, who was hospitalized just before the game for precautionary purposes due to an irregular heartbeat.

Amare Stoudemire had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Phoenix and Jason Richardson also scored 23.

Hakim Warrick led Milwaukee with 21 points and 10 rebounds and fellow reserve Luke Ridnour scored 17. Rookie Brandon Jennings added 14 points and Andrew Bogut had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

The Bucks have not beaten the Suns in Phoenix since Feb. 21, 1987.

Nuggets 105, Timberwolves 94

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points in his return from a knee injury, hitting consecutive 3-pointers midway through the fourth quarter for Denver.

The All-Star forward, who is leading the NBA in scoring at 30 points per game, missed the previous five games after bruising his right knee Dec. 28 against Sacramento.

Chauncey Billups, who returned last week from a groin injury, had 18 points and Arron Afflalo added 15 for Denver.

Corey Brewer had 25 points for the Timberwolves, who lost their fourth consecutive game on the road. Al Jefferson added 22 points and 15 rebounds while Kevin Love had 20 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota.

Manny going for knockout versus Clottey

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines — A fifth straight knockout.

That will be Manny Pacquiao's target when he stakes his World Boxing Organization welterweight title against Joshua Clottey on March 13 at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Master trainer Freddie Roach, who has accurately predicted Pacquiao's stoppages of David Diaz, Oscar De La hoya, Ricky Hatton and Miguel Cotto in succession, told Fighthype.com Monday that they want to put Clottey away inside the distance.

"I think we're going to get him (Clottey) in 12 easily, but he's definitely a tough guy to knock out," said Roach. "That's our goal, to knock him out and be the first one to do that (against Clottey)."

The 32-year-old Clottey, who narrowly lost to Cotto via a controversial decision last June, has never been knocked out in compiling a 35-3 record, with 20 KOs.

"It's a hard fight, of course, because he's a true welterweight and a big, strong kid, so Pacquiao is going to have to really fight smart with his speed," added Roach, who thinks Clottey will offer a better fight than World Boxing Association super welterweight (154 lb) titlist Yuri Foreman.

According to Roach, Pacquiao needs to box, in and out, side to side, and be very tactical because Clottey is a strong, big puncher with an iron chin.

Roach also bared that there will be no catch weight with Pacquiao now comfortable at 147 lb. Pacquiao dethroned Cotto at 145 last November.

"When Manny's eating on the day of the weigh-in and gets to eat twice before the weigh-in, he's happy," said Roach. "That's when he performs at his best, when he's smiling and in a good mood."

Despite Pacquiao's perceived advantages over Clottey, Roach isn't about to get complacent.

This early, the Hall of Fame trainer has enlisted the services of 154 and 160-pounders to spar with Pacquiao when the pound-for-pound king begins training at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

On the list are German Felix Sturm, the WBA middleweight champion, and Mexican Roberto Garcia, who fights at 154 and boasts a 29-2 record.

Briton Amir Khan will also be coming in to provide speed in sparring, said Roach, adding that a 160 lb champion from Ukraine is also offering his services.

Pacquiao plans to leave for Los Angeles on Jan. 17. ***(PDI)***

Marianas Coffee Trail runners to sample local brew

All participants of the 3rd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run set for Jan. 23 will get a one-half pound bag of Saipan Blend coffee courtesy of Marianas Coffee Company.

The islands' first sporting event of the year will not only treat runners to amazing views, great weather, challenging terrain, and encounters with historical sites, as the Marianas Coffee Trail Run will also give them a sample of Saipan's signature brew.

While every participant gets to take home a bag of java, the Top 3 finishers will receive a Marianas Coffee Tote Bag with an additional bag of locally-grown Saipan Estate coffee, as well as Marianas Coffee hats.

The 3rd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run begins at 6:30am, with a 5:30am show time. The 10-mile course starts at American Memorial Park and takes runners to the peak of Mt. Tapochao, the highest point of the island, before heading back to AMP's Micro Beach. A 10-kilometer short course fun run will also be available for novice runners. A banquet later that day will be held at the Micro Beach Pavilion.

"This is a great race," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Everyone has a good time, and there is a lot of camaraderie the whole day."

Entry fee for this signature race is $30. Runners can register at the MVA office before Friday, Jan. 15, and avoid the $10 late fee, or register the day of the race for a total fee of $40.

For more information about the event, contact Edward Diaz of the MVA at 664-3200 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

Last year, Japanese running coach Handa Yunosuke used his vast experience to win the 2nd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run. He clocked in at one hour, 21 minutes, 12 seconds to beat last year's champion Miyachi Fujio, who came in several seconds later at 1:22:46. ***(PR)***

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

chipped in eight apiece.

Williams and Metran fired two triples apiece in the first half, while Manalili drilled six of the team's last night points in that period to give MHS a 30-17 lead at the break.

Mt. Carmel made repeated comeback bids in the second period, but gunner Tim Taguchi failed to draw support from his teammates, leaving the Knights with a 0-2 start in the five-team league.

Taguchi led all scorers with his 21 markers.

KHS 56, GCA 42

Last season's finalist Kagman High School gave the returning Grace Christian Academy a rude welcome, notching a 56-42 win during the league's opening last Wednesday.

GCA is making a comeback in the MISO caging after four years of absence and seemed headed for a close fight against Kagman when the Eagles trailed by only five at halftime, 24-29. However, the much experienced Ayuyus stepped on the pedal in the second half to cruise to a 14-point win.

Jimmy Brel paced Kagman with 21 points, while John Maratita added seven.

Luther Taylor led GCA's losing cause, scoring 15 markers, while Kevin De Leon contributed 14 markers.

SSHS 37, MCS 30

Saipan Southern High School also prevailed in its debut game, edging MCS on Friday, 37-30.

Big man Ian Benavente held his own against Mt. Carmel's frontline to lift the Manta Rays to a seven-point win. Benavente scored 13 markers, earning most of his points from the 15-foot line after drawing fouls in the paint. John Paul Villanueva was also a factor in the game, making four of his five points in the closing minutes of the match.

Matt Duenas and Tristan Ecalnea combined for 13 points, hoping to fill the void left by Brian Ajoste and Nate Flores on the Rays' offense. Ajoste and Flores graduated last season after failing to lead SSHS to back-to-back championships.

This year's MISO caging also features competition in the junior varsity division, which will kick off today with Southern facing Kagman. Only GCA has no junior varsity team in the league.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Championships in Japan," Kimura said.

Joining the Japanese swimmers on Saipan were coaches Takeyama and Sugiyama

Kimura said the Japanese swimmers' training session lasted for six hours every day. The morning session was held from 8:30am to 11am, while the afternoon practice ran from 3:30pm to 6pm.

"They swam more than 7,000m every practice. Sometimes, they went over 9,000m. The practice was so hard and tough and Kensuke Kimura had the privilege to join the group in the 10-day training session," said Hiro Kimura, adding the team will return to Saipan later this year.

After seeing Kensuke Kimura join the group's practice, Takeyama expressed admiration to the Tsunami Saipan swimmer's skills. The Japanese coach believes Kensuke Kimura will break records and compete in the Junior Olympics in Japan next year. Takeyama is also hoping to see Kensuke Kimura in the Tokyo Junior Sprint in March this year.

Hiro Kimura confirmed Kensuke will go to Japan in March for the sprint competition and will try to improve his performance on his third year in the same tournament. In 2008, Kimura placed 20th among 100 swimmers in the 100m IM swim.

Meanwhile, Hiro Kimura said Tsunami Saipan is talking with Saipan Swim Club coach Mike Villagomez for a possible mutual meet later this month or early next month. Hiro Kimura said there had been no swim meet for Tsunami Saipan and SSC swimmers since April last year.

To warm-up for the mutual meet, Tsunami Saipan bets and some SSC swimmers competed in the 2010 MTEC Tank 2 Tank Aquathon on Saturday. The island swimmers joined the 100m, 200m, 500m, and 1-kilometer race in the waters off the former AJ's Restaurant in Susupe.

Shin Kimura was first out of the water in the 1-km race and he and teammate—runner Kai Staal—finished second behind veterans Stuart Smith and Jack Kabiriel.

LOCAL

From Page 28

Greg Soto in 2007. His lone draw was against compatriot Jick Yong Kim in Korea in 2006.

Adelbai also has one draw in his record and holds seven wins and three losses. The Saipan bet's victories were all via TKO and his victims include John Rasiang, Paul Iginoef, Charles Aiken, Antonio Nekaifes, Joe Rabauliman, Neil Taisacan, and Troy Munoz.

Another local favorite, Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse will be dueling Kang in a 155-lb. bout. Jesse boasts of a 5-1-0 win-loss-draw slate, absorbing his lone loss at the hands of Guam's Alex Castro during last month's Trench Warz 11: Redemption.

Jesse has a better record than Kang, who holds a 3-2-0 mark and only has one win via KO. Kang's first two wins were in 2006 and his latest was in August, 2008, against Yasayuki Nakamura. His losses were all via TKOs.

In the third Saipan vs. Korea fight, Chris "No Love" Laayug will be pitted against Gu in a 145-lb. bout.

Laayug has a 3-2 win-loss record, dropping his last bout when he bowed (TKO) to Guam's Jon Delos Reyes in Trench Wars 10: Collision in July. Laayug's victories were against Kevin Esteves (KO), Derrek Chan (TKO), and Ben Mettao (submission).

Gu holds a 1-2-1 mark, posting his lone win (submission arm-bar) against Young Sun Kim in 2006 in Korea. The Korean fighter will be making his return to the octagon cage after three years of absence.

Meanwhile, Alvarez is calling on all fighters interested in competing in Fearless.

"ROP is an amateur event and is the proving grounds for young up and coming talented fighters who want to take their fighting skills to the next level of MMA competition. Fighters will earn their right to pass onto bigger, more prestigious shows, such as Trench Warz, Fury, and PXC," Alvarez said.

For more information, contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

NATIBU

From Page 28

when outfielder Jason Hayes flied out.

Suel led Natibu's sixth straight win with his six RBIs. He went perfect at the plate with his 4-for-4, scored three runs, and had two doubles. Quitano, Sablan, and Welson added three RBIs apiece.

The victory put Natibu on top of the 21-team league, ahead by a win against Island Rebels (5-0). SaiPal dropped to a share of third place with Man Amigos (5-1).

Dikito paced SaiPal with four RBIS, built on a 3-for-3 performance at bat. He scored two runs, one triple, and one homer.

The Natibu-SaiPal tiff was the only game completed on Monday, as Advance and Berdax were playing at the top of the second inning when it rained. Organizers then decided to call it a night, also canceling the third game between Fuegu and G-Ballers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	10	.722	—
Toronto	19	20	.487	8 1/2
New York	15	22	.405	11 1/2
Philadelphia	12	25	.324	14 1/2
New Jersey	3	34	.081	23 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	25	12	.676	—
Atlanta	24	13	.649	1
Miami	18	18	.500	6 1/2
Charlotte	16	19	.457	8
Washington	12	23	.343	12

Central Division

Cleveland	30	10	.750	—
Chicago	16	20	.444	12
Milwaukee	15	20	.429	12 1/2
Indiana	12	25	.324	16 1/2
Detroit	11	25	.306	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	25	12	.676	—
San Antonio	22	13	.629	2
Houston	21	16	.568	4
New Orleans	19	17	.528	5 1/2
Memphis	18	18	.500	6 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	24	14	.632	—
Portland	23	16	.590	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	21	16	.568	2 1/2
Utah	21	17	.553	3
Minnesota	8	31	.205	16 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	29	8	.784	—
Phoenix	24	14	.632	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	17	18	.486	11
Sacramento	15	21	.417	13 1/2
Golden State	11	25	.306	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 96, New Orleans 92
Indiana 105, Toronto 101
Atlanta 102, Boston 96
Chicago 120, Detroit 87
Oklahoma City 106, New York 88
Utah 118, Miami 89
Denver 105, Minnesota 94
Phoenix 105, Milwaukee 101
Cleveland 117, Golden State 114

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	32	331	272	961	30.0
Bryant, LAL	37	405	240	1094	29.6
James, CLE	39	395	282	1138	29.2
Durant, OKC	36	349	287	1034	28.7
Wade, MIA	35	329	254	946	27.0
Ellis, GOL	35	364	166	912	26.1
Nowitzki, DAL	36	323	228	900	25.0
Bosh, TOR	38	315	273	909	23.9
Roy, POR	38	317	205	892	23.5
Arenas, WAS	32	253	153	722	22.6
Stoudemire, PHX	37	293	185	771	20.8
Johnson, ATL	36	291	107	749	20.8
Evans, SAC	32	246	153	662	20.7
Randolph, MEM	36	295	143	736	20.4
Kaman, LAC	35	299	116	714	20.4
Gay, MEM	34	260	144	690	20.3
Duncan, SAN	33	265	130	660	20.0
Williams, UTA	33	235	134	645	19.5
Jackson, CHA	35	245	138	675	19.3
Lee, NYK	36	287	113	687	19.1

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	172	267	.644
Howard, ORL	204	334	.611
Gasol, MEM	198	326	.607
Horford, ATL	207	350	.591
Lee, NYK	287	495	.580
Hilario, DEN	197	343	.574
Landry, HOU	225	394	.571
Stoudemire, PHX	293	517	.567
Bynum, LAL	215	387	.556
Gasol, LAL	138	249	.554

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	37	138	345	483	13.1
Noah, CHI	35	139	289	428	12.2
Camby, LAC	34	104	295	399	11.7
Wallace, CHA	34	73	323	396	11.6
Randolph, MEM	36	167	246	413	11.5
Bosh, TOR	38	120	310	430	11.3
Lee, NYK	36	83	310	393	10.9
Haywood, WAS	34	138	217	355	10.4
Boozer, UTA	37	76	310	386	10.4
Duncan, SAN	33	97	245	342	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	37	417	11.3
Paul, NOR	27	296	11.0
Williams, UTA	33	321	9.7
Rondo, BOS	34	329	9.7
Kidd, DAL	37	325	8.8
B. Davis, LAC	35	283	8.1
James, CLE	39	302	7.7
Westbrook, OKC	36	262	7.3
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	36	230	6.4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMIFA U18 Football Fall League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Independents Football Club pose with their championship trophy after beating MP United in the boys U18 finals at the Oleai Sports Complex Field on Saturday.

Michiko Tenorio, seen here going for a kick in the second half, scored the game-winning free kick in the first half.

MP United's David Xiang, center, receives his Golden Boot prize from league volunteers Greg Borja, right, and Steve McKagan.

Doreen Ravell gets a victory ride from her Matansa Football Club teammates after downing Paire Football Club in the girls U18 finals.

Michiko Tenorio, seen here going for a kick in the second half, scored the game-winning free kick in the first half.

Matansa and Paire players battle for the ball.

Matansa's Doreen Ravell shows her Golden Boot prize.

Matansa's Madison Smith goes for a header.

A Matansa player tries to keep the ball away from a Paire defender.

Paire players in a defensive stance.

Matansa's Jacque Wonenberg is chased by two Paire defenders.

McGwire admits using steroids

Ending more than a decade of denials and evasion, McGwire admitted Monday what many had suspected for so long–that steroids and human growth hormone helped make him a home run king. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Carroll says challenge drove him from USC to NFL

Pete Carroll loves challenges and the NFL game. The Seattle Seahawks offered both, and not even Southern California could compete. **25**

Dolphins slip past Knights

Tsunami Saipan hosts Japan junior swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven junior swimmers from Japan held a swim camp here with Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan assisting the visitors in the 10-day event at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said the seven swimmers are from Shizuoka Swimming Association and are among the top in the Japan national ranking list. The group is composed of Katsumi Harada, Yuya Sato, Yuuki Honda, Yuuki Sugiyama, Yuka Kaneda, Ami Shimamura, and Maho Kunimitsu.

"Ami Shimamura is one of top swimmers in the butterfly event in Japan. Katsumi Harada is among the finalist in the Inter High School

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura, sixth left, joins swimmers and coaches from Shizuoka Swimming Association, which held a swim camp at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MHS and Kagman players are seen here battling for the ball during last season's finals in the varsity division of the MISO caging. The Dolphins and Ayuyu started their title bid this season with wins against Mt. Carmel School and Grace Christian Academy, respectively.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School opened its title defense in the varsity division of the 2010 MISO High School Basketball League with a 48-40 win over Mt. Carmel School on Monday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins, who won last season's championship via a 76-72 finals victory over Kagman High School, leaned on returnees Ed Manalili, Heartim Williams, and Shane Metran, and newcomer Eli Aughenbaugh to win their first game of the season.

Manalili, Williams, and Metran played limited minutes in MHS' title conquest last season, as the Dolphins then had top guns Jericho Cruz, Marvin Rabauliman, Joe Ada, and Clayton Kenty. Cruz and Rabauliman did not play in last season's finals, but Ada and Kenty stepped up in leading MHS to a title win.

This year, the burden of lifting the Dolphins to back-to-back titles falls on the shoulders of Manalili, Williams, and Metran. Manalili top-scored in MHS' first win of the season, canning 14 markers, while Williams chipped in 12. Metran and rookie Aughenbaugh

See DOLPHINS on Page 26

Natibu wins battle of unbeaten teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Natibu prevailed in the battle of undefeated squads in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League, downing SaiPal, 28-21, on Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Natibu and SaiPal came into the game sporting identical 5-0 slates, but only the former kept its unbeaten record after turning on the heat in the last two innings of the match. Natibu combined for 10 runs in the sixth and seventh inning against SaiPal's only two.

Center-fielder Vic Salas homered at the top of the sixth, while Bruce Norita also had a round-tripper, but it was called as an out, as Natibu had already reached the limit (4). Leftfielder J.R. Suel gave Natibu two more runs on his double, while Dustin Quitano and Jonathan Welson had a one-run single each, lifting the team a 24-19 lead after trailing, 18-19.

SaiPal answered with only one run at the bottom of the sixth on Payton Sakuma's double that drove J.D. Dikito home but his team was still behind, 20-24. At the top of seventh inning, Sato Manalo, Salas, B.J. Sablan, and Dave Kapileo scored one run apiece to make it a 28-20 lead.

SaiPal must make at least eight runs to extend the game and keep its bid for a perfect record alive, but fell seven runs short with only Hector Efraim reaching home plate. Efraim was the leadoff batter at the bottom of the seventh and made it home on Lawrence Dikito's sacrifice fly to leftfield. With two outs and runners on first and second, the game ended

See NATIBU on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
B.J. Sablan, seen here watching a low pitch, scored three RBIs and went 4-for-5 at bat in Natibu's 28-21 win over SaiPal in the Chamolinian league on Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Local faves vs Korean pros in Rites of Passage 8

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech, Inc. will open its 2010 season with a bang as its initial offering, Rites of Passage 8: Fearless will have Korean pros challenging local favorites.

Trench Tech president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said they will mark the new season with a first, as Korean fighters, Hyun Gyu Lim, "Dr. Kang" Bung Chan Kang, and Young Nam Gu will be making their debut in CNMI MMA via ROP 8. Fearless is slated for Feb. 12 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

"Since we have a big Korean community here, I think this will be a great opportunity for Koreans on Saipan to get more in tuned with the sport of MMA and create new networks and friends," Alvarez said.

Lim will be facing veteran Slade "The Rage" Adelbai with the former hoping to improve his 5-3-1 win-loss-draw record. The 6'2" Lim holds two TKO wins and one KO. He had a doctor stoppage win against Japanese Noburi Onishi in May, 2008 and another TKO victory over Hiroshi Masabuchi in March of the same year.

Lim's three other wins were against Brandon Magana in Korea (triangle choke), Lucio Linhares (KO punch) in Russia, and Seong Yeol Ahn (unanimous) in Korea. The Korean Top Team bet lost to Dmitry Samoilov in the U.S. in February last year, Max Fernandez in December 2008, and

See LOCAL on Page 26